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T20 WORLD CUP: AFGHANISTAN STUN 2021 CHAMPS AUSTRALIA

Defending a par total of 148, bowlers deliver a clinical performance as the Rashid Khan-led side beat Oz by 21 runs...

NAIB CONJURES MAGIC IN HISTORIC VICTORY

Afghanistan came close in the ODI World Cup, but couldn't cross the line against Australia. On Saturday, however, the stars had aligned. Pat Cummins' hat-trick didn't matter. Neither did the fighting fifty from Glenn Maxwell. Naveen-ul-Haq (3/20) and Gulbadin Naib (4/20) rose to the occasion — sharing seven wickets between them — to take Afghanistan across the line | P11

WHO NEEDS TO DO WHAT TO QUALIFY?

- For Australia, its simple. They have to beat India by a significant margin. If it is a close result, they need Bangladesh to beat Afghanistan in the evening match
- Afghanistan will know what they need to do when they take the field. There is a chance of three teams finishing with 2 points each

45

MOHAMMAD NABI HAS BEEN PART OF INT'L WINS AGAINST 45 COUNTRIES

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

CBI takes over NEET-UG probe, registers FIR

Special teams formed, despatched to Bihar and Gujarat where cases of question paper leaks have been registered

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot flags off the 'Ride Safe India' campaign, an initiative of TNIE and Hero MotoCorp, at Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Road safety a shared responsibility, says guv

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AS part of the week-long 'Ride Safe India' campaign, an initiative of *The New Indian Express* in collaboration with Hero MotoCorp to promote road safety as the topmost priority among road users, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot flagged off a bike rally from Raj Bhavan on Sunday. The rally saw participation of over 250 people from diverse backgrounds.

The governor appreciated the campaign for road safety through education and awareness and noted that road safety is a crucial issue in Bengaluru, which is developing at a rapid pace with the number of two-wheelers on the roads increasing.

He highlighted that traffic jams are a significant concern for Bengaluru residents and listed causes for road accidents, including speeding, use of mobile phones, drunk driving, wrong side or lane driving, lack of discipline, jumping red lights, not using safety devices like helmets and seat belts, vehicle conditions, weather conditions, road conditions, and mistakes by drivers, cyclists or pedestrians.

The governor stressed that road accidents kill millions of people worldwide and seriously injure countless others, making it necessary to adopt road safety measures. He emphasised that it is everyone's responsibility to follow road safety rules and raise awareness among others, as it requires collective effort and cooperation. "By prioritising road safety, lives can be made safer," the governor added.

He noted that the government and police are working together with voluntary organisations to ensure the safety of every person on the road and to reduce the number of road accidents. CONTINUED ON: P2

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Sunday filed an FIR and initiated a probe into alleged irregularities in the medical entrance exam NEET-UG held on May 5 on a complaint it received from the Union education ministry, officials said. The complaint by the Department of Higher Education, now part of the FIR, cites "certain isolated incidents" in a few states during the conduct of the examination.

In its communication to the CBI, the education department sought a detailed probe into conspiracy, cheating, impersonation, breach of trust, and destruction of evidence by candidates, institutes and middlemen. The department has also requested the CBI to look into the role of public servants, if any, connected with the conduct of the examination.

The central probe agency has sent its teams to Bihar's Patna and also to Godhra in Gujarat, where cases of question paper leaks have been registered by local police, officials said, adding that the CBI may take over those cases.

"The probe agency has accordingly registered a criminal case and initiated an investigation. Special teams have been formed by it to investigate the matter on top priority. Teams are being sent to Patna and Godhra, where local police have registered cases in this regard," a senior CBI official said.

The allegations of irregularities sparked protests in several cities and a litany of litigation.

Screen grab of CBI personnel confronted by villagers in Bihar's Nawada district

PROBE TEAM ATTACKED IN BIHAR

A team of CBI officials probing alleged irregularities in the conduct of the UGC-NET examination was attacked by a mob in Bihar's Nawada district after which four persons were arrested by police on a complaint from the central agency, officials said Sunday. According to police, the villagers attacked the CBI team under the impression that they were imposters trying to harass them on the pretext of investigation. The incident occurred on Saturday evening when the CBI sleuths reached Kasiadeeh village. Some officials sustained minor injuries in the scuffle

Opposition parties have also latched on to the issue to put pressure on the government ahead of Parliament session.

Meanwhile, the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad questioned two teachers who run a private coaching centre in Latur in connection with the alleged irregularities.

It is to be noted that besides NEET-UG, three other exams—UGC NET, CSIR-UGC NET, and NEET-PG—have also faced controversy. The UGC NET was cancelled by the government a day after the exam, while the CSIR-UGC NET and NEET-PG exams have been postponed.

To combat exam malpractice, the central government has also notified rules to implement the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024. This Act aims to prevent unfair practices in public examinations and address related issues. Also, high-level panel of experts chaired by former ISRO chairman K Radhakrishnan has been formed to ensure transparent, smooth, and fair conduct of examinations. P7

Poor turnout for retest as 50% candidates absent

KETAN NAROTTAM TANNA
@ New Delhi

THE NEET-UG retest for 1,563 candidates who were previously awarded grace marks saw poor turnout on Sunday as only half of them turned up at the seven re-examination centres spread across Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Meghalaya, and Chandigarh. Officials said 813 (52%) of the eligible candidates attended the re-test while 750 (48%) chose to skip it.

The re-test was held on the orders of the Supreme Court following complaints of irregularities in the medical entrance exam after 1,563 candidates were given grace marks to make up for the loss of time in some centres where the test started late on May 5.

63 debarred

Sixty-three candidates have been debarred nationwide for malpractices during the NEET-UG, according to the NTA. This includes 17 candidates from Bihar and 30 from Godhra

Apart from the controversy over the award of grace marks, the coveted entrance test was also marred by allegations of paper leak, putting the National Testing Agency (NTA), which held the tests, in bad light.

Speaking to this newspaper, a high-level source in the Union education ministry admitted that the NTA did not "instil confidence" among the public. The source mentioned that the decision to award grace marks was strange, as the rule book clearly states that in the event of an exam delay, extra time should be granted at the centre. The source highlighted that the top 100,000 students from 4,750 centres showcased the nationwide desire to succeed.

The re-exam saw varied attendance rates across different states and centres. Gujarat recorded the highest attendance at 100%, while Chandigarh had the lowest at 0%. In Chandigarh (UT), none of the two eligible candidates appeared. In Chhattisgarh, of the 602 eligible candidates, 291 (48.34%) appeared. Gujarat's Surat had one eligible candidate who attended, achieving a 100% attendance rate. In Jhajjar, Haryana, DAV Police Public School and Kendriya Vidyalaya saw 287 out of 494 (58.09%) eligible candidates attend. In Meghalaya, 234 out of 464 (50.43%) eligible candidates appeared for the exam.

Education ministry sources said that education had been "unbundled" with exam coaching centres being at the forefront, driven by parents' desire for their children's success. Officials rubbished rumours that NTA portal has been hacked.

Security forces bust Maoist fake currency ops in Chhattisgarh

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

SECURITY forces on Sunday tracked down a Maoist-run facility in the Sukma district of Chhattisgarh which was allegedly being used for printing counterfeit currency notes.

On receiving a tip-off, a joint team of security forces comprising personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), District Reserve Guards of the Chhattisgarh Police, and Bastar Fighters — a special force formed in 2022 to fight Maoist threat — launched a joint search operation.

"Recovered a cache of counterfeit notes, colour printers, more than 200 ink bottles, printer cartridges, rollers and other equipment," Sukma police chief Kiran Chouhan said.

He added that the ultras managed to escape into a nearby jungle as the forces were closing in on the facility.

Sources said currency notes of denominations of ₹50, 100, 200 and 500 were recovered during a search. Chouhan said Maoists have resorted to printing fake currency notes to cope with a fall in cash flow amid aggressive counter-insurgency operations by the security forces. .

In a separate incident, two CRPF jawans were killed when the ultras blew up a truck with an improvised explosive device in the Sukma district.

The deceased jawans were identified as constable Vishnu R, 35, from Kerala, and driver Shailendra, 29, from Uttar Pradesh.

The two belonged to the force's jungle warfare unit CoBRA. The incident happened near Timmapuram village between Silger and Tekalgudem camps of the security forces.

Suraj Revanna arrested, sent to judicial custody

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hassan/Bengaluru

Dr Suraj Revanna, a Member of Legislative Council (MLC) and grandson of former prime minister HD Deve Gowda, was arrested by the Holenarasipur Rural police in connection with a case in which he allegedly forced a JDS male party worker into sodomy. The JDS MLC was remanded in judicial custody after he was produced before a magistrate in Bengaluru on Sunday evening. The case has been taken over by the sleuths of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

The 27-year-old victim from Arkalgud taluk had filed a complaint against the MLC for forcing him into homosexual acts at his farmhouse in Gannikada village of Holenarasipur taluk on June 16. Based on the complaint filed on June 22, the Holenarasipur Rural police took Suraj into custody from his farmhouse on charges filed under Sections 377 (unnatural offences), 342 (wrongful confinement) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the IPC.

Police take MLC and JDS leader Suraj Revanna for medical check-up after his arrest, in Hassan on Sunday | PTI

The Hassan police, who seized Suraj's mobile phone, questioned him at at the Cyber Economic and Narcotics (CEN) police station before taking him to the Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences for mandatory medical examination. Later, the police brought him to Bengaluru and handed him over to the CID police, as the state government had issued orders transferring the case to CID.

The 36-year-old legislator is the son of Holenarasipur MLA HD Revanna and elder brother of former Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna. CONTINUED ON: P4

Parl session to begin today amid pro-tem speaker row

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AMID the row over appointment of seven-term member Bhartruhari Mahtab of the BJP as pro-tem speaker, the inaugural session of the 18th Lok Sabha is set to begin on a combative note on Monday.

The first day of the special Parliament session will see oath-taking by 280 newly elected MPs, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Council of Ministers. The remaining 264 parliamentarians including Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will take oath on Tuesday. The focus will be shifted to the election of the Lok Sabha Speaker on June 26 and President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint sitting of both the Houses on June 27.

The row over pro-tem speaker is likely to escalate on Monday as three Opposition MPs consider pulling out of the panel of chairpersons to assist Mahtab in carrying out the proceedings of the House till the election of the Speaker. Early this week, President Murmu appointed Mahtab as pro-tem speaker and nominated a panel of senior MPs including Congress' Kodikunnil Suresh, DMK MP T R Baalu, TMC's Sudip Bandyopadhyay, and BJP leaders Radha Mohan Singh and Faggan Singh Kulaste to assist Mahtab. Speaking to this newspaper, K Suresh said a final decision on boycotting the panel will be taken on Monday.

The Opposition is up in arms over Mahtab's appointment. They allege the claim of K Suresh, an eighth-term MP, to the post was bypassed by the government. Meanwhile, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju says that Mahtab has had seven uninterrupted terms as a Lok Sabha member, making him eligible for the post and the Congress is trying to mislead people.

The Opposition and the government are likely to lock horns over the election of the Speaker and deputy speaker posts. While the government remains secretive about its Speaker candidate, the Opposition stands firm on its claim to the deputy speaker post.

The debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, which begins on June 28, may also witness stormy scenes. The Opposition will try to pressure the government on various issues including NEET-UG and UGC-NET exams, new criminal laws, and the Kanchanjunga Express accident.

The PM is likely to respond to debate on July 2 or 3. Both Houses will go into a brief recess and re-assemble on July 22 for Budget.

A STEP CLOSER

Metro Phase-3 gets green signal from Centre's investment board

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

IN a significant fillip to Bengaluru Metro's Phase-3, which will run for 44.65 km, the central government's Public Investment Board (PIB) recently cleared the project, said multiple sources.

The project, which will cost Rs 15,611 crore, now awaits the green signal from the new Union government.

Phase-3 will have two elevated stretches — one of 32.15 km, connecting JP Nagar Fourth Phase on the Western side of Outer Ring Road and the other of 12.5 km on Magadi Road connecting Hosahalli and Kadabagere. It will have 31 stations.

A reliable source told *TNIE*, "The PIB has okayed the project and the file has been sent to the Union Cabinet for approval. It is expected to happen anytime soon."

Another source said, "The PIB consent is crucial before the final clearance. This marks a significant breakthrough for Phase-3."

A previous meeting between PIB and Metro officials before the recent Lok Sabha elections had been postponed.

The state government had given its nod for the revised project cost of Rs 15,611 crore on March 14 this year and announced that it would be completed by 2028. It has also decided to bear 80% of the cost of the project unlike in the past.

The state initially approved the project on November 18, 2022 at a cost of Rs 16,328 crore with a 20% share to be borne by Karnataka and the rest by the Centre through external borrowings. CONTINUED ON: P2

EXPRESS READ

Kejri moves SC against Delhi HC's stay on bail

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday approached the Supreme Court challenging the Delhi High Court order that stayed his bail in the excise case. The Delhi High Court's vacation bench of Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain had on Friday stayed the trial court's order granting bail to Kejriwal and reserved judgment on the ED's appeal, stating that he will pass the order in 2-3 days, possibly on Tuesday. This prompted Kejriwal to move the top court on Sunday.

Third, final landing of Pushpak gives wings to ISRO

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chitradurga

IT was super Sunday for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as it achieved a success, for the third consecutive time, in the Reusable Launch Vehicle Landing Experiment by demonstrating the autonomous landing capability of the launch vehicle under more challenging conditions at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) at Kudapura in Challakere taluk of Chitradurga.

Isro's Reusable Launch Vehicle 'Pushpak' lands during Sunday's final test | PTI

At 7.10 am, the winged vehicle successfully conducted the third and final Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) Landing Experiment (LEX). The RLV LEX-03 mission demonstrated the autonomous landing capability of the RLV under more challenging release and severe wind conditions. The vehicle, Pushpak, was released from an Indian Air Force Chinook helicopter at an altitude of 4.5 km.

Pushpak autonomously executed cross-range correction manoeuvres, approached the runway, and performed a precise horizontal landing at the runway centreline.

"With the objectives of RLV-LEX accomplished, ISRO embarks into RLV-ORV, the orbital reusable vehicle," ISRO posted on X.

Because of Pushpak's low lift-to-drag ratio aerodynamic configuration, the landing velocity exceeded 320 kmph, compared to 260 kmph for a commercial aircraft and 280 kmph for a fighter jet. P5

ALMANAC TODAY

Monday: 24.06.2024 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Uttharayana • Ritu: Greeshma • Masa: Jyeshta • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Thrutheeya 2.44 am • Nakshatra: Utthara shada 5.35 pm • Moon in Kumbha Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am • Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER — MIN 21°C | MAX 27°C

FORECAST: Passing showers. Overcast

Sunrise 05.55 am | Sunset 06.48 pm | Moonrise 09.13 pm | Moonset 07.54 am

Mission Safety: Bikers rally for awareness

An initiative of TNIE and Hero MotoCorp, event saw 250 participants send a powerful message for safer travel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN a display of community spirit, riders from all walks of life gathered on Sunday morning for the 'Ride Safe India' bike rally organised by The New Indian Express, in collaboration with Hero MotoCorp.

The event brought together professionals from various backgrounds, apart from everyday bikers, all united in their mission to promote road safety. The rally, with about 250 participants, underscored the critical importance of wearing helmets and other safety measures, transforming the city's streets into a powerful message for safer travel.

The participants included BBMP marshals and representatives from Hero MotoCorp, riding alongside TNIE staff.

The bike rally, flagged off by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, started at Raj Bhavan and passed iconic landmarks such as Vidhana Soudha, Cubbon Park, Kempegowda Tower, Queen's Circle, and Sree Kanteerava Stadium. The route included Coffee Board Junction, KR Circle, Nrupathunga Road, Hudson Circle, Kasturba Road, Anil Kumble Circle, BRV Circle, GPO Junction and Balekundri Circle, culminating at The New Indian Express office on Queen's Road.

The road safety initiative was launched on June 21, with Home Minister G Parameshwara and senior officials from the city police, city traffic police, health institutions and state transport department launching the event with the distribution of safety kits to BBMP marshals, police personnel, Home Guards, and bike and taxi union members.

The event emphasises that road safety is a shared responsibility and highlights that wearing a helmet is not just an accessory but a critical component of safe driving that ensures compliance with traffic laws and reduces the risk of penalties from law enforcement authorities.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot flags off the 'Ride Safe India' rally at Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru on Sunday. The rally passed through iconic landmarks like Vidhana Soudha and Cubbon Park before culminating at the The New Indian Express office on Queen's Road | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

GOVERNOR DISTRIBUTES ROAD SAFETY KITS TO RAJ BHAVAN STAFF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Expressing pleasure that TNIE and Hero MotoCorp are working to raise awareness and instill a sense of responsibility about road safety through the campaign, the governor distributed road safety kits to the employees of Raj Bhavan symbolically. Over the course of a week, TNIE will host awareness programmes in various parts of the city aimed at distributing safety kits to individuals, emphasising the importance of road safety. The initiatives seek to equip participants with essential tools for safe driving practices. TNIE Karnataka's Senior General Manager P Suresh Kumar, Deputy Resident Editor Nirad G Mudur and Assistant Resident Editor Ramu Patil were present.

Cops to crack down on bikers with defective helmets

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

THE major reason for two-wheeler fatalities is head and neck injuries, which can be prevented by wearing protective headgear conforming to the Bureau of Indian Standards.

However, as many two-wheeler riders are seen wearing half-helmets, helmets without chin-straps and non-standard helmets in the city, though it is mandatory for all, including children above four years as per Section 129(a) of the Motor Vehicles Act, Bengaluru police said they will slap fines for violations as they have already created enough awareness about the importance of helmets."Only one-third of two-wheeler riders and pillion riders wear proper protective headgear conforming to the Bureau of Indian Standards," said NIMHANS Director Dr Pratima Murthy.

A senior police officer said that out of fear of being caught for traffic rules violations, motorists wear non-standard, cheap helmets which cost their lives. They argue that they are wearing helmets and still getting fined. The police can book motorists who wear non-standard helmets, half helmets, and helmets without straps under Section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act. The police can't book those who sell non-standard and half helmets on the street. The respective authorities need to take action. The police can only create awareness and book violators for traffic violations, he added.

Dr Navya, a neurosurgeon at Spine Care & Ortho Hospital, said protective headgear can reduce chances of fatalities by three times and injuries by six times. Riders need to wear full face-covering helmets with chin straps and visors to avoid injury. If a person falls on the side, they are likely to have more severe brain injuries as it exposes the vulnerable side of the skull.

The injury could directly affect the brain stem. An impact to the front and back of the skull is likely to cause a less severe injury to the brain. Pillion riders are more vulnerable during accidents and injuries, especially women because of their style of sitting (sidewards). If motorists wear protective headgear, gloves, shoes on ride can reduce the 90% of injuries, she added.

WAITING FOR JUSTICE

No flat, aged couple wages lone battle, builder goes missing

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

AN elderly couple is at the forefront of a battle against a builder who has absconded after leaving the residential project in Electronics City unfinished. After filing a police complaint, a court case and a complaint with the Real Estate Regulatory Authority-Karnataka (RERA-K), the couple still awaits justice, six years after the project deadline expired.

Aswani Properties, in 2017, had planned a new project - Aswani Aaeesha with 223 flats (2 - 3 BHKs) at Doddanagamangala in Begur, the A-wing of which was to be completed, and the final deadline for handover to buyers was March 31, 2018, which includes three months of grace period.

70-year-old Sharada Balachandran and R Balachandran (75), had paid a total of Rs 41 lakh for two 2BHK flats, the total cost of which came up to Rs 52.5 lakh, including registration. Sharada told TNIE, "Since it was classified by the builder as affordable housing, the rates were quite economical. However, the 2BHK was built on just 545 sqft."

As per the agreement entered into, by the builder on January 5, 2017, the project was to be handed over six years ago. "Just 70% of the project has been completed, but no flat has been fully completed. Nothing was handed over. We have repeatedly met the builder and they had assured us of its completion. However, when we found out that the office was sealed, in 2022, we filed a complaint with the Tilak Nagar police station, on March 18, 2022. We also learnt they had mortgaged a number of flats with India Bulls to mobilise finance."

Many families have completed their flats on their own, and have started living there

R Balachandran and his wife Sharada

too. The couple wants their homes to be completed by the buuilder, plus a compensation of Rs 15 to Rs 16 lakh, for the years of delay. "We received a WhatsApp message from builder Anand Reddy that the project would be completed and also that he would pay them a rent of Rs 15,000 for each month of delay. But nothing was given to us, nor has the project been completed," Sharada said.

Venkatramana Asula, one of the three partners of Aswami Properties told *TNIE*, "Anand Reddy, the main partner has absconded. There is another partner Babu Reddy and myself. I am based out of Hyderabad, and am trying to solve the problem but it is very complicated." Venkatramana claimed that 90% of the work in the said project had been completed. "We have completed the B-Wing of the project and hand over has been successfully completed. In the A-Wing, the lifts are not yet installed, and the the painting has to be done. The Club House and Swimming Pool also need to be completed." He explained that many home buyers had not paid the full amount for their homes. "We are yet to get atleast Rs 7 crore from the homeowners. The only way out is to mobilise Rs 3.5 to 4 crore and hand it over to India Bulls, to get a NOC for the 106 mortgaged flats, from the finance company."

Cost further lowered in final proposal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE proposal was submitted to the Centre in February 2023, but the Union government wanted the cost reduced. The state pruned it to Rs 16,041 crore in a revised report submitted by June-end in 2023 with the consultancy firm RITES removing the escalation cost calculated for rolling stock. The cost was further lowered in the final proposal.

The Detailed Project Report

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

kept going back and forth between the state and Union governments with numerous clarifications sought by the Centre. Just when it was to be approved, the Lok Sabha elections were announced and the model code of conduct came into force.

The Phase-3 lines are expected to carry a daily average of 9.12 lakh passengers by 2051.

The PIB is a nodal body under the finance ministry which examines the feasibility of investment plans proposed by different ministries of the Central government. It is headed by the secretary of the expenditure department.

Residents of Balagere and Varthur remove sludge from the road on Sunday

Residents do BBMP's work, clean roads

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AFTER their repeated complaints to the BBMP fell on deaf ears, residents of Balagere and Varthur, including children, took matters into their own hands on Sunday and cleared the roads in their locality of sludge.

The residents claimed that for any of their complaint, even when asking for roads to be swept, the standard reply from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and elected representatives is that they do not have any funds.

They also complained that their area doesnt have underground drainage (UGD) and the Palike is not bothered with fogging to control mosquito breeding.

Also, there have been several accidents on the slushy, pothole-riddled roads.

"Our children inhale this dust while coming home from school. What are the elected representatives doing? When it rains, it is a death trap for two-wheelers and a nightmare for all commuters as traffic moves at a slow pace on the pothole-filled flooded roads," a resident said.

During the cleaning activity, residents protested by brandishing placards urging the government to conduct the BBMP elections so that councillors can be held responsible and get the work done.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

24TH June : It's Monday morning and no better time to set out on the rest of your life. Ultimately astrology is all about understanding your potential, not about giving in to fate. All the top astrologers say 'listen to your horoscope but make up your own mind'. Then the cosmos will sit up and take notice!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
The fascinating relationship between Mars and Uranus may yet prove to mark a turning point in your domestic and family affairs. The way forward at home is through hard work. In professional matters, the key to success lies in adopting a radically different approach.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Financial news could be optimistic, and it may be useful to team up with a partner in a long-planned enterprise. The most important pressures in your chart are social, so you'll mix business with pleasure and cultivate useful contacts. Oh, and give a loved one the benefit of the doubt.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Interesting news may set you on a new course of action, and you will feel a sense of urgency. Use your imagination and follow hunches, especially if any short journeys are planned. In matters of the heart you're hoping for the best - but you could be too pushy.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The current planetary patterns seem to be definitely beneficial, even though you may come close to despairing of a particular person. Bear in mind that other people are just incapable of committing themselves at the moment - and wait until the time is right.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
There's a lot of energy around, and there's no reason why you shouldn't achieve your aims. If you're in the property market, a little lateral or creative thinking should help cut through entrenched problems. And a word of advice - don't feel rushed into making practical choices.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
This is unlikely to be a restful day. The planets are putting pressure on everyone, although from your point of view this is all very positive. Try socialising with colleagues you'd normally ignore. You might even consider welcoming rivals into your closest circle.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You'll only be as busy as you want to be, so arrange your schedule to suit your needs rather than those of friends and associates. There is every sign that decisions taken now will work out as planned, but only if you're sensitive about putting them into practice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
The accent is on domestic improvements, if only at the planning stage. There's much to be said for taking a radical approach, even though this may not be well received by your more cautious relatives. The other factor you have to bear in mind is that children and younger relations require still more of your time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
If travel is on the horizon, please get arrangements tidied up as soon as possible. Recent conditions may have been a little stressful, although by now you should have got the hang of your new responsibilities and duties. You will have implemented all necessary changes by the beginning of next week.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Career-wise, you're in for a busy time although your attention may be drawn more and more towards emotional complications and personal relationships. You must ask yourself what it is exactly that you want from a certain person - and then work out how you can get it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Lively conditions continue, although there's no reason to join in with co-operative activities if you've something better to do. Disagreements will be made up with just a little effort and attention in the right quarters. Throwing money at problems may also help!

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Catch up on all routine chores and you might achieve more than you intended. You may even get ahead of yourself, in which case you'll be thankful for your foresight when pressures build up, possibly before the end of the week. And a word of warning - don't take partners for granted!

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

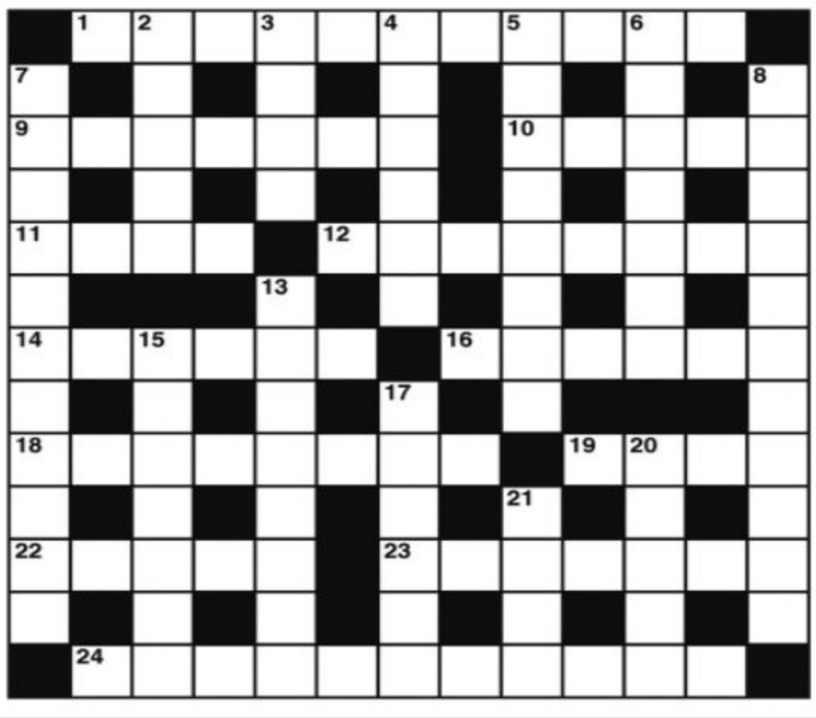
	8			1	9	3		
7		5			4			
			3	8				6
5		8	4	3	1		6	7
3	6		8	2	5	1		9
8				4	2			
			1			9		4
		4	6	9			1	

6	9	3	4	5	2	7	8	1
7	2	5	8	9	1	6	3	4
8	1	4	6	3	7	5	9	2
4	6	9	5	1	8	2	7	3
2	3	8	9	7	6	1	4	5
5	7	1	3	2	4	8	6	9
9	4	2	7	6	5	3	1	8
3	5	7	1	8	9	4	2	6
1	8	6	2	4	3	9	5	7

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 I'll tell you what's going to happen in it (6,5)
9 Lie in a furrow with the hunt milling around (7)
10 Fitting end for a piece of wood (5)
11 Cape familiar to the matador? (4)
12 Insecure sort of job many want (8)
14 Earnest advocate has not lost heart (6)
16 Possibly a scene of a spirited comeback (6)
18 Stop deer straying with ropes round their necks (8)
19 Issue of US magazine is returned (4)
22 Canned - as sardines are (5)
23 Reform vital to a North European (7)
24 He clears the way for us (4,7)

DOWN

2 Extreme state (5)
3 Wild ox found in ancient city states (4)
4 National application, then change in command (6)
5 Tips which are never mean (8)
6 Tan blazer - smart! (7)
7 Secret assignment for a lullaby singer? (4-4,3)
8 It's entering in a way that's exciting attention (11)
13 Fiancé is at home and cared for (8)
15 Far-seeing man who fell foul of the Inquisition (7)
17 Roar and bluster about the Spanish (6)
20 Food for one in bewilderment (5)
21 A near-sighted gathering (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Screen, 4 Assemble, 9 Retina, 10 Pekinese, 12 Rite, 13 Inate, 14 Stet, 17 Tropical fish, 20 Moneylending, 23 Note, 24 Warms, 25 Solo, 28 Ordering, 29 Top hat, 30 Moondust, 31 Static.

Down: 1 Sorority, 2 Rotation, 3 Erne, 5 Sheet of flame, 6 Exit, 7 Bleats, 8 Events, 11 Greasepaints, 15 Pivot, 16 Using, 18 Ricochet, 19 Agnostic, 21 In form, 22 Studio, 26 Prod, 27 Host.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

SSNEE

CNEEF

TBNOUT

BWLOEB

I'm not sure we need to gamble anymore.
You're right! Let's go to a magic show instead.
MAC KING
$
4/29
NOT GETTING A CASH ADVANCE ON THEIR CREDIT CARD FROM THE CASINO'S ATM WAS THEIR ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FLUKE CHEER WHIMSY CLOSET
Answer: For the struggling starting pitcher, being replaced was a — WELCOME RELIEF

Two mechanics, Syed Salman (22) and Mohammad Sadiq (27), who brandished swords and machetes in a moving car, were arrested in Chikkamagaluru on Sunday. The duo allegedly moved about in their car, brandishing the weapons, with the intention of creating tension among people. They also took pictures to share on Instagram

RAGIGUDDA DOUBLE-DECKER FLYOVER TO OPEN SOON

Will cut congestion at Silk Board Junction; 5 ramps to be built

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

WITH South India's tallest road-cum-rail flyover at Ragigudda soon to be opened unidirectionally, traffic police anticipate that congestion will ease significantly at the choked Central Silk Board Junction. The road on the flyover's first level, 8 metres above the ground, and three ramps are finally ready.

Its official launch awaits dates from the Chief Minister's office, and will come as a huge relief for employees of Electronics City.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has built the Rs 330-crore flyover on Marenahalli Road at a height of 31 metres, with the RV Road-Bommasandra Metro line tracks laid on the second level. This is the first flyover in South India to have a Metro line over an elevated road.

DCP Traffic (South) Shiva Prakash Devaraju told TNIE, "When the road is opened up, it will bring down congestion at Silk Board Junction by 25% to 30%. However, we are apprehensive that traffic will shift to HSR Layout and Bommanahalli. Let us wait and watch."

"A total road length of 5.23km, including three ramps and loops, are set to open shortly. It will be signal-free," said Chief Public Relations Officer, BMRCL, BL Yashavanth Chavan.

A visit to the flyover before the launch showed that some final touches were being given to the new 20m wide road which runs for 3.3km from Ragigudda to

A view of the road-cum-rail flyover, with the Jayadeva Interchange Station, in Bengaluru | S LALITHA

Five ramps are planned here. While A, B and C ramps will be opened now, we are trying to complete D and E by March 2025
— A senior BMRCL official

CSB Junction. "Five ramps are planned here. While A, B and C ramps will be opened now, we are trying to complete D and E by March 2025," said a senior BMRCL official.

'A' ramp is an extension of the new road from CSB Junction to Hosur. At this junction, the road also branches out to HSR Layout, making it the 'C' Ramp. 'B' Ramp will connect the ground level of the flyover to 'A' ramp. The ramps have loops attached, the official added.

The ramps in the opposite direction are yet to be completed. 'D' ramp will connect HSR Layout to Ragigudda, while 'E' ramp will connect BTM Layout to the first level of the flyover.

With BMRCL demolishing the iconic Jayadeva flyover in June 2020 to build the Jayadeva Interchange Station for the Yellow Line and Pink Line (Nagawara to Kalena Agrahara), it had to take up the task of building another flyover here.

The flyover has missed multiple deadlines. The State government unveiled the plan in January 2017, and the flyover was to be completed by December 2020. With the first tender floated in April 2018 not approved as there was a single bidder, it had to go in for re-tendering a few times. It has missed deadlines of October 2021, June 2022, March and December 2023, and March 2024. The flyover was ready last year but the ramps were not complete.

Forester's murder: Cops told us not to file case, say kin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Yadgir

THE murder of a Deputy Range Forest Officer at Shahapur town was allegedly kept under wraps for two weeks. The family members of the deceased, Mahesh S Kanakatti (49), alleged that they were advised against filing a murder case by some forest officials and the police, claiming that they would lose the chance to get a job on compassionate grounds.

Mahesh was allegedly murdered on June 5, and on the family's insistence, the police on Saturday turned the 'death' case into 'murder case'. Mahesh was a native of Shadipur village of Chincholi taluk (Kalaburagi district) and was transferred to Shahapur three years ago.

Police sources said that following information on June 5 that an unknown body had been lying near a hotel in Shahapur, the police visited the spot and sent the body to a mortuary and registered a case of unnatural death.

The police informed family members of the deceased, after they found an identity card in the pocket of the victim. However, the family members were sure that it was murder and insisted on a detailed inquiry. The police inspected CCTV footage from the hotel in front of which the body was found. It was noticed that 4-5 persons chased Mahesh before killing him. Based on a complaint lodged by the wife of the deceased, the police confirmed that the case was of murder and intensified their investigation.

Deputy Range Forest officer Mahesh S Kanakatti

Yadgir SP G Sangeetha said the police arrested Raju Chouhan, Rekhu Chamnal, Narasing Rathod, Tarasingh Chouhan and Prakash Hotpet in connection with the murder of Mahesh Kanakatti. The police are still trying to find out the exact reason for the murder, the SP said.

Sources revealed that when Mahesh went to the hotel, he had a quarrel with a few people. The hotel manager tried to pacify them, but when the quarrel intensified, he asked them to go outside. Further, the gang of 4-5 people assaulted Mahesh with lethal weapons, killing him on the spot.

Meanwhile, Sundar, Mahesh's son, alleged that police and forest department officials have misguided the family members. The murder case was registered after 15 days of the incident, after the family members insisted on converting the UDR case into a murder case, he alleged. Sundar further alleged that forest officials advised the family members not to register a murder case, or else they wouldn't get a job on compassionate grounds. The forest department, which is supposed to stand with the family members of the deceased, has not registered a case of murder of its own employee, he alleged.

20-yr-old girl, 45-yr-old man in love end life

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Tumakuru

AN alleged affair between a 20-year-old girl and a 45-year-old married man ended in tragedy with the couple jumping into a tank at Mavathuru in Koratagere taluk on Saturday. Police fished out **Ananya**'s body on Saturday evening with the help of divers, and found Rangaswamy's body on Sunday morning. The girl, from Lakkayyanapalya hamlet near Chinnahalli, was a B.Com second-year student at Channamma First Grade College in Kolala town, where Rangaswamy was running his business. Originally from Byragondlu village, Rangaswamy was into several businesses, including tailoring and selling electronics.

Ananya's father Mallikarjunaiah is a farmer and small-time politician. Rangaswamy was married to Gangaratnamma, who worked as a help at a bank in Kolala, and they have two sons, studying in PU and Class 8. They were family friends for some years but a year ago, Ananya and Rangaswamy fell in love and even decided to marry. Since it was against the wishes of their families, they eloped a couple of days ago and returned to the tank in Mavathuru on Saturday.

Rangaswamy abandoned his car, and he and Ananya jumped into the tank and drowned. They left their mobiles and footwear on the bank.

Passersby turned suspicious and informed Kolala police, who rushed to the spot. Following complaints by Ananya's father and Rangaswamy's wife, police registered cases and took up an investigation.

Brace for power cuts on June 25

BENGALURU: There will be disruption in power supply from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm in parts of the city on Tuesday as the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) will carry out maintenance works. According to a press release from BESCOM, areas falling under 66/11KV HBR Layout MUSS will be affected. The areas are: HBR 1st Block & 2nd Block, Yasin Nagar, Subhash Layout, Rama Temple Road, Ramdev Garden, Krishnareddy Layout, Teachers Colony, HBR 3rd Block, Shivaramaiah Layout, Ring Road Service Road, KK Halli Village, CMR Road, Kamanahalli Main Road, Ramaiah Layout, Lingarajapuram, Janakiram Layout, Kanakadasa Layout, Govindpura Main Raod, Rashad Nagar, Farida Shoe Factory, Arabic College, KG Halli, Govindpura village, Vinobhanagar, BM Layout, Arogyamma Layout, Kaveri Garden and surrounding areas, HBR Layout, 4th Block Yasin Nagar, 5th Block, HBR Nagawara Main Road, Nagawara, NJK Garments, Byrankunte, Kuppuswamy Layout, HKBK College, 4th & 5th HBR Layout, Vidya Sagar, Thanisandra, RK Hegde Nagar, K Narayanpura, NN Halli, Balaji Layout, Phase 1 to 3, Railway Mens Layout, BDS Layout, Hennur Main Road, HRBR 1st & 3rd Block, Oil Mill Road, Aravind Nagara, Nehru Road, Kammanahalli Main Road, Bethal Street, AK Colony, 80-feet Road, CMR Road, KARLE, Hegde Nagar, Nagenahalli, Police Quarters, Kempegowda Layout, Shabarinagara, KMT Layout, Bharathiya city, Noor Nagar Bharath Math Layout, Hidayath Nagar, Lidkar Colony BMRCL, Gandhinagar, Kushal Nagar, Shampura Main Road and surrounding areas. **ENS**

Kadur woman colludes with paramour to murder hubby

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chikkamagaluru

AN incident of a man becoming a victim of his wife's illicit affair has been reported from Doddabeeranahalli under Sakarayanapatna police station limits in Kadur taluk.

The deceased has been identified as Jayanna (42), a tile worker. His wife Shruti (35) fell in love with Kiran Kumar (27), son of Jayanna's elder brother. After learning about the affair, Jayanna confronted his wife about it. There were frequent quarrels between them due to the alleged affair.

On June 16, Shruti with her paramour hatched a plan to kill her husband. She fed her husband food and liquor laced with poison that night. Shruti cooked up a story, saying that Jayanna had developed abdominal pain and she was taking him to the hospital.

But Shruti and Kiran did not take Jayanna to any hospital, but instead kept circling around in the car through the town. It is also learnt that they allegedly choked Jayanna in the car, and projected it as a natural death.

A few relatives who were suspicious informed the police, who started an investigation. Later, Jayanna's daughter revealed the plot to end her father's life by not taking him to the hospital in time.

The police arrested Shruti and Kiran Kumar and a case has been registered at Sakarayanapatna police station in this regard.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G2B
Tender Notice No.: B/C.565/STBA/ Bengaluru Divn./2024 Dated: 18.06.2024
Corrigendum
The Engagement of STBA at Sri Sathya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam station invited vide notification No. B/C.565/STBA/06/2024 Dated: 13.06.2024 will be for a period of only one year or up to termination of contract earlier by either party. Further for Sri Sathya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam station there shall be no extension of the engagement period, as per extent policy. There is no change in other terms and conditions.
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Bengaluru
PUB/180/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bangalore – 560064
Tender Notice No. RWF/S/04/2024-25 Dated 20/06/2024
On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Materials Manager invites Electronic Open Tender from experienced Manufacturers/ authorised dealers, for supply of the following item, on the Indian Railways e-portal **www.ireps.gov.in**.
(1) Tender No.: P2245516, **Brief Item Description:** 150 KVAR IGBT Based Automatic Dynamic Power Factor Control Panel., **Tender Closing Date and Time:** 19/07/2024, 14:00 hrs. Tender details can be viewed on our website **www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in** or **www.ireps.gov.in**. The tender documents and the corrigendum to the Tender if any, will be available on the portal only. **e-mail:smm.rwfblr@gmail.com.**
Principal Chief Materials Manager
Tender Notice No. RWF/W/24-25/02 Dated: 21/06/2024
E- TENDERS: On Behalf of the President of India, the Dy. CHIEF ENGINEER invites electronic tender for the following works online through the website **http://www.ireps.gov.in** (Works).
(1) Tender No.: W.496/RWF/YNK/1030, **Description:** Mechanised cleaning, Allied Works and Housekeeping Services of Plant & Colonies of RWF for 04 Years., **Estimated Value in (₹):** Rs. 27,24,48,884.88, **Pre-Bid meeting Date & Time:** 02/07/2024 at 11.00 hrs., **Closing Date & Time:** 17/07/2024 at 11.00 hrs.
DY. CHIEF ENGINEER

THE ALL-NEW
TNIE
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
APP
SCAN THE QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP
Google Play App Store
STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS

LOST and FOUND
I, Mrs. BATHULABI, have lost/misplaced Original Lease Cum-Sale Agreement Regd.No.BDA-1-00649-2010-11, Dated-15-06-2010, Book-I, Stored in CD No.BDAD157, Registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bengaluru District, Bengaluru, is lost or misplaced while travelling from my house which is in Kaveri Nagar, BSK II Stage to Banashankari, Bengaluru and I have lodge a police complaint, if the Original Sale Deed found please contact at No. 9916605625.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client has intended to purchase the scheduled property from Mr Subbarao Prabhala, aged about 91 yrs, S/o late Raghuramaiah Prabhala, Residing at #9/8 Haudin Road, Bengaluru 560042 and Mr. Achal Raghuvara Prabhala aged about 51 year S/o Subbarao Prabhala residing at #203 Riviera, 2/5, Kensington Road Bangalore 560042.
Any persons having any manner of claims / objections for the proposed purchase may lodge their claims and obligations with the undersigned, with documentary evidence within 10 days from the date of publication any claims/ objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the scheduled property as if there are no claims/objections.
SCHEDULED PROPERTY
All the piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site # 193, BBMP PID Number 72-9-193 situated at Domlur 2nd Stage, Bangalore, measuring East to West 18.70 metres and North to South 12.19 meters in all measuring 227.953 sq meters of vacant site bounded on that **East by** Site # 190, **West by** Road, **North by** Site # 194, and **South by** Site #192.
Prof. C.M. Nagabushana, Advocate
Krishna Building, Avenue Road, Bangalore.
Mob: 98864 69528, 94490 12332

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -I, AT BANGALORE
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore
O A No: 972 OF 2023
Between:Canara Bank, Ganganagar Branch, Bangalore - 560 032. **...Applicant And**
Sri Mahesh Nanjungud & Another ...Defendants
SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993
To: DEF -1: Sri Mahesh Nanjungud S/o. Sri Chandrashekar, Aged about 48 years, R/a No. 248, 3rd Main, BHCS Layout, Uttarahalli Main Road, Bangalore - 560 061. Also at : R/a. No. 8/A, Swarga, 5th Cross, 5th Main, Sri Krishna Nagar, J. P. Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore - 560 078.
Whereas, the Applicant has instituted the Application U/s. 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the Defendants for the recovery of a sum of **Rs.73,14,000 = 00** along with ineterst at 10.95% p.a. compounded monthly on the Housing loan -I and at 11.00% p.a. compounded monthly on the Housing Loan -II from date of application till date of recovery and other reliefs.
You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of the summons on or before **30/09/2024 at 10.30 AM** as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default the application wil lbe heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal this the **16th day of May 2024 at Bangalore.**
Sd/-Signature of the Officer
(Authorised to issue Summons)
Debts Recovery Tribunal -I

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G2B
Tender Notice No.: 25/2024
Dated: 14.06.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.
Description in brief: 4 Core x 240 sq mm 1100 V grade, stranded aluminium conductor galvanised steel strip Armoured, XLPE cable.
Tender No.: L8245895 Qty: 4200 Mtrs.
Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 10:30 hrs. of 08.07.2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager Bengaluru
PUB/174/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G2B
Tender Notice No.: 24/2024
Dated: 14.06.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.
Description in brief: Brake control system including driver's vigilance control device as per CLW Spec. no. CLW/MS/3/001 Alt. 17. Note - Brake control system to be supplied in set-1 & set-2. Make-Faiveley Transport Rail Technologies India Private Limited.
Tender No.: L8245859 Qty: 01 Set
Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 10:30 hrs. of 08.07.2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager Bengaluru
PUB/173/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -I, AT BANGALORE
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore
O A No: 1293 OF 2022
Between:Canara Bank, Vivekanandnagar Branch, Bangalore - 560 033. **...Applicant And**
M/s. Karthik Granites, represented by its Proprietor, Mr. S. Muniyappa S., & Another ...Defendants
SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993
To: DEF -1: M/s. Karthik Granites, Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Muniyappa S., S/o. Mr. Shivalingam, Aged about 32 years, R/a. No. 59/A, 2nd 'A' Cross, J. C. Nagar, Bangalore - 560 086. Also at : No. 16, Elacheguppe, Jettipalya, Magadi Road, Bangalore- 562 130.
DEF -2: Smt. Ranjitha K. S., D/o. Mr. Kumar K., Chowdappa, Aged about 29 years, R/a. No. 59/A, 2nd 'A' Cross, J. C. Nagar, Bangalore - 560 086.
Whereas, the Applicant has instituted the Application U/s. 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the Defendants for the recovery of a sum of **Rs.53,31,000 = 00** along with ineterst at 12.00% p.a. compounded monthly from date of application till date of recovery and other reliefs.
You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication of the summons on or before **29/10/2024 at 10.30 AM** as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default the application wil lbe heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal this the **6th day of May 2024 at Bangalore.**
Sd/-Signature of the Officer
(Authorised to issue Summons)
Debts Recovery Tribunal -I

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G2B
Tender Notice No.: SE02-2024-25
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Name of Work	Appx. Value
Sub Work I: Mysuru Workshop: Electrical arrangements to Upgradation of storage, material handling facilities and IT related infrastructure inside shop floor. **Sub Work II:** Setting up of Design and Mechatronics lab with improved facilities at CWS-MYSS. **Sub Work III:** Mysuru Workshop: Electrical arrangements to Supply, Installation, and commissioning of 15 KLD capacity sewage treatment plant.	Rs. 10,66,807/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 11:00 hrs. of 17.07.2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer Mysuru Workshop
PUB/177/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL BENGALURU BENCH AT BENGALURU
In the Matter of the Companies Act, 2013 And
In the Matter of Scheme of Amalgamation of **CONTROL TECHNIQUES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED** with **NIDEC INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED** and their Respective Share Holders
CP (CAA) NO. 20 /BB/ 2024
C/W
CA (CAA) NO. 03 /BB/ 2024
CONTROL TECHNIQUES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
(CIN: U30006KA1993PTC175731)
Registered Office:
No. 45 Nagarur Hoskur Road
Off Tumkur Road
Huskur,Nelamangala
Bengaluru Rural - 562 123
...PETTITIONER COMPANY NO. 1 / TRANSFEROR COMPANY
NIDEC INDUSTRIAL AUTOMATION INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
(CIN: U31101KA2000PTC026953)
Registered Office:
No.45, Nagarur,Huskur Road
Off Tumkur Road
Bengaluru - 562 123
...PETTITIONER COMPANY NO. 2 / TRANSFEREE COMPANY
NOTICE
A Petition under Sections 230 and 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 for sanctioning the Scheme of Amalgamation of Control Techniques India Private Limited (Transferor Company) with Nidec Industrial Automation India Private Limited (Transferee Company), was presented by the Petitioners on 13.05.2024 and the said Petition came up for admission on 12.06.2024 and is fixed for hearing before the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench on 25.07.2024.
Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said Petition should send to the Petitioner's advocate at the address mentioned below, notice of such intention, in writing, signed by him/her or his/her advocate, with his/her full name and address, to reach the Petitioner's Advocate, not later than two (2) days before the date fixed for hearing of the Petition. Where he/she seeks to oppose the petition, the grounds of opposition or a copy of the affidavit, shall be furnished with such notice. A copy of the petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same, on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.
Date : 24-06-2024
Place : Bengaluru
SAJI P. JOHN
Advocate for Applicants
SPJ Legal, Advocates
Unit No. 306, 3rd Floor, #30
Prestige Meridian II, MG Road
Bengaluru – 560 001
Ph: 98452 09798
E-mail: saji@spjlegal.com

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CENTRAL EQUIPMENT & STORES PROCUREMENT CIRCLE-II, IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT, UTTAR PRADESH,
Ganga Sinchai Bhawan, Telibagh, LUCKNOW-226025
SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE NO. TE-983/2024-25
Online e-Bid in three parts namely (i) Earnest Money Bid (ii) Technical Bid (iii) Price Bid are invited simultaneously by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Uttar Pradesh only from **BCH/L&T/HAVELLS/SIEMENS/SCHNEIDER/ABB/C&S** Original Manufacturers or from their dealers/distributors/channel partner authorized by the firm to participate in this bid, for the supply of **Automatic Air Break Star-Delta Starter Panels of ratings 12.5 HP to 50.0 HP** to be used on state tubewells for Submersible/VT Pumpsets for water handling and catering irrigation to farmers, conforming to IS:13947(Part-4/Sec-1):1993 read with IS:13947 (Part-I):1993 & latest amendments if any. Details for eligibility, qualification and method of submission of bids etc. in the bidding document uploaded on the U.P. Government e-procurement website http://etender.up.nic.in. The undersigned reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-bids/annul the bidding process without assigning any reason. In case of any variation in English and Hindi version of this tender notice, English version shall prevail. The details of different activities are as follows:-

(a)	Date & time for Availability of the bidding document on website	26.06.2024 from 14:00 Hours onwards
(b)	Period for online e-Bid submission & Online opening date & Time of Part "A" i.e. Earnest Money etc. of bid	From 26.06.2024, 14:00 Hours to 10.07.2024, 17:00 Hours & 11.07.2024, 12:00 Hours
(c)	Bid Document Fee	**Rs.29500.00** (Rupees Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred only) including all taxes

Note:- (1) This Tender Notice is also available on Information & Public Relation Department website (http://information.up.nic.in) and Irrigation Department website (http://idup.gov.in).
(2) Amendments, if any, regarding this notice shall only be available at U P government e-procurement website **http://etender.up.nic.in.**
(3) In case the date of opening of bids is declared a holiday then the e-bids shall be opened on the next working day at the same time.

Ro.No.: 216516
Dated : 22/6/2024
website: www.up.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
Central Equipment & Stores Procurement Circle-II,
Irrigation Department, U.P., Lucknow

M.Tech Admission 2024 @ C–DAC
Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Thiruvananthapuram invites application for M.Tech Courses in
- VLSI and Embedded Systems
- Cyber Forensics and Information Security

- Contribute to Live Projects of National Significance in the area of:
  - *India Microprocessor* ■ *Strategic & Medical electronics* ■ *Cyber forensics etc.*
- Internship & Placement in C-DAC R&D Labs and Industries
- Classes and Labs Engaged by C-DAC Scientists and Faculties
- Practical Oriented Industry Elective designed by C-DAC Scientists
- Interactive learning experience with cutting-edge industry tools
- Open to Gate and Non-Gate candidates & working professionals

Apply Directly to Institute, Last date Extended upto: 5th July, 2024
ER&DCI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Academic wing of C-DAC, Thiruvananthapuram
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Agriculture Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy said he will soon hold a Cauvery Irrigation Advisory Committee meeting to decide on releasing water from the KRS dam into canals. He said that though the modernisation of the canals is under progress, measures will be taken to release water into them

Congress govt to go? Vijayendra, Ravi in no hurry for political action

State BJP chief wants to hold govt accountable for next 4 years

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

BJP leaders in Karnataka appear to be divided over the removal of the Congress government led by CM Siddaramaiah in Karnataka.

Even as Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti V Somanna said the government is likely to collapse any time, BJP state chief BY Vijayendra said he wants to give the Congress government a good fight during its tenure.

"For the next four years, we have to fight against the corrupt Congress government. During the BJP regime, the state was at the forefront in all fields, but in one year of Congress rule, it is lagging behind," Vijayendra said at the felicitation held for the 19 NDA MPs of the state on Saturday.

According to sources, Vijayendra, the young leader who has seen power from close as the son of former chief minister B S Yediyurappa, is in no hurry to attain power. Instead, he wants to go on a statewide trip to organize the party like his father, and get close to the people. And like Yediyurappa, Vijayendra is on good terms with almost all Veerashaiva-Lingayat religious institutions across the state, and is capable of filling his father's shoes as a strong leader of one of the largest communities in the state, observed political pundits.

Like Vijayendra, former minister and MLC CT Ravi, a Vokkaliga, is also in no hurry to acquire power. Ravi, who longs to become CM, has the backing of the BJP top brass and RSS. "The BJP will not try to remove the Congress government as the party does not have an adequate number of MLAs to form the government," he said on Sunday. He also remarked that Siddaramaiah's image as a strong leader is getting diminished, which could mean the BJP will have a good chance when the next assembly polls are held. Ravi is likely to be selected Opposition leader in the Council, that may help him emerge strong, according to analysts.

Apart from Somanna, Opposition leader in the assembly R Ashoka, former CM Basavaraj Bommai and former DCM Govind Karjol often predict that the Congress government may crumble soon due to internal bickering and corruption. Already, B Nagendra has resigned as tribal welfare minister after the multi-crore scam in the Valmiki corporation surfaced.

BJP leaders have alleged that other ministers in the Siddaramaiah cabinet are also corrupt and both Siddaramaiah and DCM D K Shivakumar should resign.

BJP state president BY Vijayendra, MLAs GT Devegowda and TS Srivatsa, MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah, Siddaganga mutt seer Siddalinga Swamiji and others at a book release function, at Kuder Mutt in Mysuru on Sunday | UDAYASHANKAR S

People of Karnataka will again reject Congress in bypolls, says Vijayendra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

STATE BJP president BY Vijayendra on Sunday said the people of Karnataka, who rejected Congress in the Lok Sabha elections, will again say no to Congress in the bypolls to be held for Assembly seats vacated by elected MPs.

He said the strategies of Congress and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's will not work and Congress which claims to have increased its tally from one Lok Sabha seat to nine should know that BJP has got the lead in 146 Assembly constituencies.

On Chief Minister Siddaramaiah clarifying that the guarantees will continue even if he is not the CM, Vijayendra said Congress that was solely dependent on the guarantees to win the elections but was rejected by the people.

He said the demand to appoint three to four deputy chief ministers shows that the morale and confidence in the Congress camp has taken a beating.

Criticising the government for increasing the petrol and diesel prices, he alleged that prices of all commodities including seeds and fertilisers have shot up and industrialists are moving out of Karnataka.

Vijayendra said the Congress government is extorting money from the common man and likened it to giving coins as alms to a blind beggar and stealing currency notes from him. On one hand, the state government is giving freebies to the people, while on the other, it is increasing prices of fuel, taxes, stamp duty and registration, he said.

"People are disappointed with the state government's policies. Prices of sowing seeds have gone up 40-50%, putting farmers in distress," he added.

Demand for more DCMs? Min says nothing wrong

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bagalkot

BRINGING the issue of the demand for more deputy chief ministers to the fore again, Cooperation Minister **KN Rajanna** on Sunday defended such a move, stating that whenever power is distributed, it will help the party gain the confidence of various communities.

Addressing the media after inaugurating the new head office of Bapuji Cooperative Credit Society on Sunday, Rajanna said the people of different communities will lose faith in the party, if their leaders are neglected.

"If only a section of the people retain power, then those who are representing different communities could drift away when the party is out of power. In that context, I am advocating the need to have more DCM posts," the minister said.

Rajanna felt the MLAs of Lingayat, SC/ST and minority communities should have one post of DCM each, and added that already, the BJP has set an example by doing so in several states. Making it clear that the DCM will not get any additional privileges as a minister, he, however, said that the post adds honour. "People of these communities will feel proud and extend gratitude to the party for the recognition. This is a way to gain the people's confidence," he said.

Stating that the matter was not raised as the party was busy with the Lok Sabha polls, Rajanna said that now, many ministers, including Zamir Ahmed Khan and Satish Jarkiholi, have raised it He, however, made it clear that the decision in this regard is left to the party's central leadership.

Guarantees to stay

Rubbishing reports of the Congress government contemplating discontinuing its five guarantee schemes, the minister said that no ministers or MLAs of the party had opposed them.

"The chief minister himself has categorically stated that the government will not stop the guarantee schemes, which are meant to help the poor," he said.

EXPRESS READ

Rift in Davanagere BJP

DAVANAGERE: The rift within the Davanagere district BJP doesn't seem to end anytime soon. On Sunday, a statement from former district BJP president Yeshwanthrao Jadav, questioning former minister SA Ravindranath on why he was contesting from Davanagere North, created a furore.

Dalits get a raw deal in BJP, feel leaders

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

ALL parties, including BJP, fight for Dalit votes. But despite supporting the saffron party, many Dalits are asking as to why they are getting a raw deal in the party organisation.

There is discontent among BJP's Dalit leaders, who worked hard to get votes in Karnataka, despite an onslaught from Congress. But Congress claims to be taking care of its Dalit leaders, the prime example being Mallikarjun Khage, AICC president. Dalit leaders recall that there was panic among Dalit voters ahead of the Lok Sabha polls when BJP ex-MP Ananthkumar Hegde said the party could change the Constitution if it returns to power.

Dalit leaders said, "SCs and STs account for 24-25% of the state's population, which translates to around 1.5 crore. Around 30% backed BJP. But some of them ask what has the community got despite 40-45 lakh Dalits voting for BJP."

Some Dalits in BJP compare their party's overtures to Dalits with that of Congress. They point out that the present Congress government has six Dalit ministers -- Dr G Parameshwara, Dr HC Mahadevappa, KH Muniyappa, Priyank Kharge, RB Timmapur and Shivaraj Thangadagi. Until recently, the Siddaramaiah ministry had three Scheduled Tribe ministers in Satish Jarkiholi, KN Rajanna and B Nagendra, who quit recently. But during the previous BJP government, only Govind Karjol and Prabhu Chavan, who are SCs, and B Sriramulu, an ST, were ministers.

They said, "We were expecting Dalit leaders from Karnataka -- seven-time MP Ramesh Jigajinagi and former DCM Govind Karjol, who is a first-time MP -- to get ministerial berths in the Union cabinet, but they got nothing." They said they cannot understand the state party unit's obsession with upper castes -- Lingayats and Vokkaligas. The party president is a Lingayat, the Assembly Opposition leader is a Vokkaliga, and the post of LoP in the Council, which was till now occupied by a backward class, is now going to CT Ravi, a Vokkaliga. "Till the party convinces Dalits that it is not obsessed with upper castes, how will it reach the magic mark of 113 seats in Karnataka on its own," they asked.

BJP has not managed to cross the halfway mark in any Assembly election, even when it was the single-largest party in 2008 and 2018.

Some Dalit leaders pointed out that in the Lok Sabha election, BJP lost Gulbarga (SC), Chamarajanagar (SC), Raichur (ST) and Bellary (ST) to Congress. "This proves that we are not able to convince Dalit voters. Remember, the same voters had elected BJP in 2019," they added.

CHANNAPATNA BYPOLL

Not Nikhil, HDK hints at Yogeshwara as JDS candidate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

UNION Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday hinted at former minister and BJP MLC CP Yogeshwara becoming the likely JDS candidate for the bypoll to be held for the Channapatna Assembly constituency.

"A section of the media predicted that **Nikhil Kumaraswamy** might contest, but he has not come to terms with the pain of losing two polls. A person like Yogeshwara who takes care of you people with love for the JDS may contest the Channapatna seat. But there will be a consensus candidate without any confusion between both the JDS and BJP," he told a rally of milk producers' unions in Channapatna.

He took a dig at Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar holding a meeting of officials in Channapatna recently by not allowing mobile phones inside the venue. "What is his contribution, except for quarrying and exporting granite from Kanakapura? Former prime minister HD Deve Gowda and myself have contributed a lot, creating a world-class silk market, and also brought the Toyota factory (in Bidadi)," he claimed.

Meanwhile, Kumaraswamy alleged that Shivakumar has given a diktat to his supporters to increase minority votes in Channapatna, by 7,000 votes. "He did it in Ramanagara and removed us," he said, referring to Nikhil's defeat. He suggested that Shivakumar get the Rs 61-crore incentive of milk producers of Ramanagara district released from the government first. "Besides the Rs 5 per litre of incentive by the state government, I will try to convince Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman to take a decision to give Rs 2 from the Centre", he promised, further adding that he would bring a mega project each to Ramanagara and Channapatna Assembly constituencies in the next 6-7 months.

SURAJ'S FRIEND SHIVAKUMAR GOES MISSING

HASSAN: JDS MLC Dr Survaj Revanna's friend Shivakumar, who had filed a police complaint against the alleged male victim in the sexual assault case for allegedly trying to extort the MLC, is absconding. Police sources said Shivakumar, who is the treasurer of Dr Suraj Revanna Brigade from Hanumanahalli of Holenarasipur taluk, has been untraceable and his mobile phone switched off since Sunday morning. Shivakumar had stated in his complaint that the victim from Arkalgud taluk was trying to blackmail Suraj and was demanding Rs 5 crore not to file a complaint against the MLC. Interestingly, it was Shivakumar and not Suraj who filed the complaint at the Hassan CEN police station. The CEN police tried to contact Shivakumar to record his statement and for further proceedings, but he was not available. Sources said Shivakumar too could be taken into custody for further investigation. **ENS**

WITH SURAJ'S ARREST, ENTIRE REVANNA FAMILY EMBROILED IN SEX SCANDALS

HASSAN: With the arrest of MLC Dr Suraj Revanna for allegedly sexually assaulting his male friend, the entire family of former minister HD Revanna is caught in alleged sex scandals. Revannna, son of former prime minister HD Devegowda, grandsons -- former MP Prajwal Revanna and MLC Suraj Revanna -- and daughter-in-law Bhavani Revanna are all facing sexual assault charges on various counts. Suraj was arrested on Saturday evening, and shifted to Bengaluru. Revanna, who had been arrested in a kidnap and rape case filed at the KR Nagar police station, is out on bail for ten days, while Bhavani too has been granted bail in the same case. Prajwal has been remanded in judicial custody. The court has directed Revanna not to enter KR Nagar and barred Bhavani from KR Nagar and Hassan districts. **ENS**

Union min to media: Why do you ask me about Suraj?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru/Channapatna:

UNION Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries **HD Kumaraswamy** slammed the media for questioning him about his nephew Suraj Revanna, who was arrested under the Homosexual Act. He also said people's talk is hurting his father and former PM HD Deve Gowda.

He told reporters there was no need for him to answer their questions on Suraj Revanna. He claimed that some people are trying to finish the Gowda family, and such allegations are disturbing Deve Gowda. "What can elders do when youngsters in the family commit mistakes, why do you ask such questions to Deve Gowda," Kumaraswamy said.

However, he said they are not going to lose spirit. "We are not going to take retirement from politics. I have served as CM twice, and our government will come to power again in the state," he said. He also advised officials to work as per law and not act as "slaves" to the CM and deputy CM.

Those who were predicting the end of the JDS are now spending sleepless nights, he said, adding, "One cannot destroy Deve Gowda's family as long as they have people's trust."

Taking a jibe at the DK brothers, Kumaraswamy said even if an actor is arrested, the media points to me. "If similar allegations were made against those brothers, they would have put the studio on fire," he said.

Suraj sent to B'luru Central Prison for 14 days, cops may seek custody

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SURAJ was produced before the magistrate of the Special Court for trial of cases against sitting and former MLAs/MPs at the latter's residence in Koramangala.

The judge remanded Suraj in judicial custody for 14 days, following which he was sent to the Bengaluru Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara. It is said that the police may again seek his custody. Meanwhile, the victim was subjected to medical examination at Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital in Bengaluru on Saturday night, as he had expressed his fear to the police that Suraj's family may influence the investigation. He insisted that medical tests be conducted in Bengaluru.

Victim approached DG&IGP

The victim had approached the DG&IGP's office in Bengaluru after the Holenarasipur police allegedly refused to register the case against Suraj.

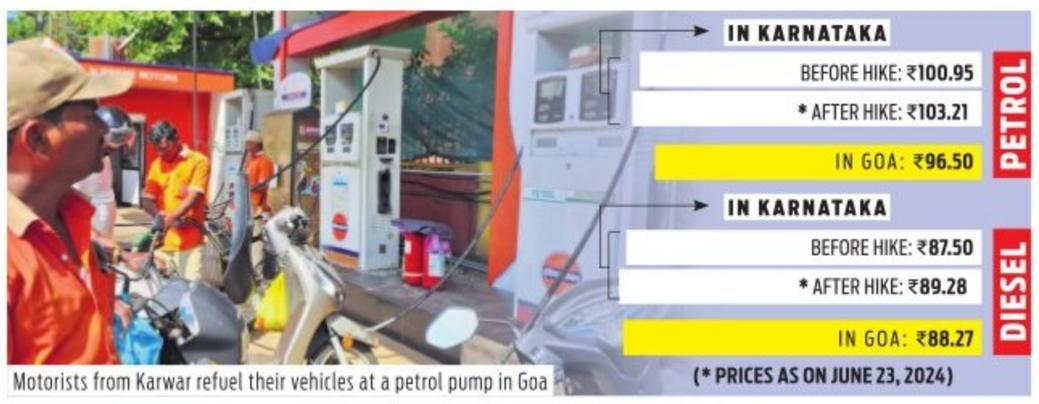
Meanwhile, Hassan Superintendent of Police P Mohammed Sujeeta has appointed Sakleshpur Deputy Superintendent of Police Pramod to probe the case filed by Suraj's friend Shivakumar, the treasurer of Dr Suraj Revanna Brigade, on June 21, alleging that the victim tried to blackmail the MLC.

Tax gap: They cross Goa border every evening to tank up

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS @ Karwar

TANKING up in Goa holds multiple meanings these days. As the sun sets, vehicles from Karnataka appear to form a queue to cross the checkpost in Karwar and enter Goa. They head to the nearest petrol bunks to fuel up, with a pitstop at a liquor store before returning.

With the Karnataka government raising sales tax on petrol and diesel, vehicle users from Karwar are making a beeline to petrol pumps close to the border, where petrol costs around Rs 8 less, and diesel Rs 1.50 less than in Karnataka. For a lay person in Karwar, visiting Goa is no big thing -- they commute to Goa every day to earn their livelihood, and some drive out during the evenings for a tipple, but in recent days, the objective is to fill up their tanks.



Motorists from Karwar refuel their vehicles at a petrol pump in Goa

Petrol in Goa has always been cheaper than in Karnataka, but has become even cheaper now. The price had dropped to Rs 99 per litre after the Union government reduced fuel charges. But post Lok Sabha elections, the Karnataka government hiked tax. Now, diesel price is marginally less in Goa compared to Karwar, where it is sold at Rs 88.07, while it is Rs 90.57 in Karnataka.

"Petrol in Karwar now costs Rs 104, but people have an option. They can travel 15km and get their tanks filled," said Prashanth, an employee at a petrol pump in Karwar. He said business is dull in Karwar bunks, with most customers heading towards Goa.

"We can save up to Rs 9 per litre. We pay Rs 95.50 per litre in Goa against Rs 104.49 in Karnataka. If we buy 11 litres of fuel in Goa, the 12th litre comes free," said Sunil Hankon, who filled up his fuel tank.

"There were times fuel prices in Karnataka and Goa had a gap of Rs 15, and people took advantage of it and fuelled up in Goa. After the Goan government hiked tax, the difference was reduced to a marginal Rs 4-6. People stopped coming to Goa to buy fuel, but now the old days are returning," said Amar Kotarkar, a native of Ponda in Goa who owns a fuel pump.

Mahesh Ratnakar Naik, employee at a petrol pump in Polem, Goa, confirmed that more vehicles are coming for fuel, but added, "It's not just to fill fuel, but to fuel their bellies too. Bars here are also full."

Around 6,000 junior doctors in Telangana will go on an indefinite strike from Monday, in response to the state's inaction towards their long pending demands. The association had submitted a letter to the director of medical education, and intimated about the strike if tangible action is not taken

AP CM TO CHAIR FIRST CABINET MEET TODAY

P HAREESH @ Vijayawada

ANDHRA Pradesh CM **N Chandrababu Naidu** will chair the first Cabinet meeting after swearing-in and picking up his ministerial colleagues in his new government, on Monday. The main focus, in all likelihood, would be on Amaravati and Polavaram, sources said.

Naidu, within a week of taking over the reins of the State, had made a visit to Polavaram, which he touted as the lifeline for Andhra Pradesh, and also his dream project, Amavarati capital. The government has sought reports on damage done to the Polavaram project and also the status of various projects in Amaravati and the Cabinet is likely to discuss on them.

Cabinet would meet in the State Secretariat at 10 am. Well before the Cabinet meet begins, Nara Lokesh will assume office as the Minister for HRD, IT, electronics and communications and RTG while Kollu Ravindra as minister for mines and geology and excise.

The Cabinet might also discuss releasing white papers on various sectors and departments like agriculture, finance, irrigation during the 2019-2024 to 'expose' the failure of the previous YSRC government, sources said.

The other issues that would come up for discussion is the spread of seasonal diseases in the State, and the steps to be taken to curb the same. The agricultural situation across the State in view of the copious rains will also be discussed.

The NDA, in the run up to the elections, promised to enhance the honorarium of volunteers from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000. The Cabinet is likely to discuss the number of volunteers to be taken by the government and the guidelines and their roles and responsibilities.

HOOCH TRAGEDY

One more dead, toll touches 56

Kallakurichi: With the death of one more person, the toll in the Kallakurichi hooch tragedy reached 56 on Sunday. Six people were discharged even as only one more person was hospitalised on Sunday. The number of patients undergoing treatment in four hospitals was 219.

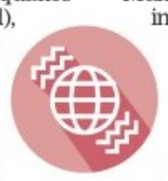
Meanwhile, the body of Jayamurugan of Madhavacheri village was exhumed on orders of the district collector to conduct an autopsy as his family claimed he had died on June 18 after consuming hooch.

The family of one Ilayaraja from the same village, who also died that day, made a similar claim and sought compensation but his body had been cremated, sources said. The official list of deceased from hooch consumption mentioned the person as having been treated at a private hospital but officials told TNIE that the death is not verified yet. **ENS**

Seismic hazard: Infra not up to mark in quake-prone Kovai and Salem

SV KRISHNA CHAITANYA @ Chennai

INDICATING a potential risk to the buildings and infrastructure in Coimbatore and Salem, a study conducted by Anna University showed that 80% of the area in these cities are susceptible to moderate earthquakes (Zone III seismic hazard), while the remaining 20% area exhibit a seismic hazard of high intensity quakes (Zone IV), showing a higher level of susceptibility in these cities.



The findings become crucial as the majority of infrastructure in these cities are not designed in a way to withstand the seismic forces.

As part of the Tamil Nadu government's plan to carry out seismic hazard assessment of different cities, the Revenue Administration and Disaster Management department had sanctioned a study titled "Seismic Hazard Assessment and Microzonation of Salem and Coimbatore cities" by the Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Management (CCCDM), Anna University.

Many of the existing buildings in the cities have not been designed to withstand the seismic forces.

The Salem city has earthquake risk and it has been upgraded from earthquake hazard category Zone II to Zone III in 2002 and the structures built prior to 2002 are mostly not designed to Zone III requirements in relation to earthquake forces.

Moderate earthquake events in Salem and Coimbatore cities may lead to loss of life due to the failure of buildings and infrastructure.

In some cases, collapse of the structure can occur due to lack of ductility.

Kurian Joseph, director of CCCDM, told *TNIE*, "The moderately high hazard levels are distributed in part of south and east corporation zones of Salem city; and parts of south and central corporation zones of Coimbatore city. The study has suggested various engineering mitigation measures such as retrofitting the vulnerable buildings and ensuring new constructions are earthquake resistant.

"Building plan approval is an important step of earthquake mitigation to promote earthquake resistant construction to reduce the casualties and property damage during earthquakes. A rapid visual screening survey was conducted and vulnerabilities of buildings in Salem and Coimbatore were identified," he added.

Police use a crane to lift the interstate private bus that toppled over in Madavana, Kochi, on Sunday | EXPRESS

Bus from Bengaluru topples on bike rider waiting at Kochi signal

AISHWARYA PRABHAKARAN & ANNA JOSE @ Kochi

A biker waiting at a traffic signal in Madavana, near Panangad was killed after an interstate bus applied sudden brakes and turned turtle, before falling over the bike on Sunday morning. All the 42 passengers in the bus, proceeding from Bengaluru to Varkala, had a miraculous escape.

The deceased, identified as Jijo Sebastian (33), a native of Vagamon, Idukki, was waiting at the traffic signal when the bus coming at high speed applied brakes, leading to it skidding and overturning.

People in the vicinity, including auto-drivers at the junction, rushed to the site and brought out the bus passengers, in some cases after breaking the windows. The biker Jijo, who works in a textile showroom in Kochi, got smashed under the bus, and he was declared dead on arrival at the hospital.

The accident on the Edappally-Aroor stretch of the national highway happened at around 10 am with the NH stretch looked slippery after the overnight rain. "I was sitting on the left side when the bus suddenly hit the divider and overturned. I realised that the bus had met with an accident, but I don't remember anything much after that," said Arya, a native of Kannur and one of the injured passengers, who underwent treatment at the nearby Lakeshore Hospital.

Out of the 42 passengers on the bus, 13 sustained injuries and were brought to VPS Lakeshore Hospital. "Three individuals have reported spinal injuries and are undergoing treatment, while the remaining passengers suffered minor injuries," said the spokesman for the private hospital. By evening, eight of them were discharged from the hospital.

AP man killed in supermarket shooting in US

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guntur

A 32-year-old man from Andhra Pradesh was killed in a shooting reported at a grocery store in Central Arkansas, USA. The deceased was identified as Dasari Gopi Krishna of Yajali village in Karlapalem mandal, Bapatla district.

While the incident took place of Friday, Gopi succumbed to his injuries at a hospital on Sunday. The Arkansas State police have taken the shooter into custody and identified him as Travis Eugene Posey (44) of New Edinburg. He was also shot and sustained injuries that are regarded as non-life-threatening, said Mike Hagar, Cabinet Secretary of Arkansas Department of Public Safety in a statement.

According to reports reaching here, Gopi Krishna moved to the US eight months ago. He was working at a grocery store called Mad Butcher in Fordyce, a small town in Arkansas. CCTV footage shows the shooter entering the store and opening fire on Gopi Krishna who was at the billing counter. As the victim collapsed, the gunman jumped over the counter, picked something up from a shelf and escaped.

Gopi Krishna was rushed to the hospital, where he died on Sunday. His family was shattered upon receiving the news. The 32-year-old is survived by his wife and son.

Rudder, nose wheel help Pushpak remain stable

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

AFTER the touchdown, the vehicle velocity was reduced to nearly 100 kmph using its brake parachute and later the landing gear brakes were deployed for deceleration and stoppage on the runway.

Pushpak utilises its rudder and nose wheel steering system to autonomously maintain a stable and precise ground during ground roll.

The mission, spearheaded by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), was a collaborative effort involving various ISRO centres, like SAC, ISTRAC, SDSC-SHAR, along with support from the Indian Air Force (IAF), Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), Regional Centre for Military Airworthiness (RCMA) under the Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC), National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, Indian aerospace industrial partners, Indian Oil Corporation and Airports Authority of India.

ISRO Chairman S Somanath congratulated the team for its dedication in sustaining a streak of success in such "complex missions". J Muthupandian was the Mission Director, while B Karthik was the Vehicle Director for the mission.

VSSC Director S Unnikrishnan Nair said this consistent success bolsters ISRO's confidence in critical technologies necessary for future orbital reentry missions. It simulated the approach and landing interface and high-speed landing conditions for a vehicle returning from space.

The advanced guidance algorithm catering to longitudinal and lateral plane error corrections, which is essential for the future orbital reentry mission, has been validated.

The RLV-LEX uses multisensor fusion including inertial sensor, radar altimeter, flush air data system, pseudolite system and NavIC. The RLV-LEX-03 mission reused the winged body and flight systems without any modification from LEX-02, ISRO's press release stated.

EXPRESS READ

Karnataka's Cauvery legal team member gets senior fellowship at Oz college

Bengaluru: Senior Supreme Court advocate **Sharat Javali**, who appeared for Karnataka in several landmark cases, has been selected for a senior fellowship in the Sydney Sussex College, Australia. He was lead counsel along with senior advocate late Fali Nariman in the Cauvery, Krishna and Mahadayi river water disputes in both the Supreme Court as well as before the Tribunals. He hailed from Dharwad, but made Delhi his home for over half a century. **ENS**

Speeding car mows down three women fetching water in TN, driver nabbed

Thoothukudi: Three women were killed and another was injured after being hit by a car as they were fetching water from roadside taps at Mukkani village in Thoothukudi on Sunday morning. Nattar Santhi (50) died on the spot while Amaravathi (58) and Parvathi (35) died on the way to hospital. Authoor police arrested the car driver, Manikandan (27), from Perungulam. The accused and his friends were returning from Bengaluru when the accident occurred. Chief Minister MK Stalin condoled the deaths and announced a compensation of Rs 3 lakh to the kin of each deceased. **ENS**

ರಾಯಚೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ RAICHUR UNIVERSITY
ಯರಗೇರಾ–584133, ರಾಯಚೂರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಭಾರತ
+91-9141030954 Email: registrarrur@gmail.com.
Sl No: RUR/ADM/GeM/MP47/2024-25/246 Date:21.06.2024
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through GeM only)
Raichur University floated Tender for the supply of 47 Nos (different Cader) Human resources kindly refer the GeM portal for the details
Sd/- Registrar
Raichur University, Raichur

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: 947/HBL/EEE/TL&SS/AE(O)/A-13/1172-75 Date: 20.06.2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION
KPTCL invites following Office tenders pertaining to Transmission Lines and Sub-Stations Division, Hubballi:
1. Repair of faulty 500kVA,11kV/415V-240V Govt Electric factory make auxiliary transformer along with replacement of spares @ 220KV R/s SRS Hubballi.
2. Overhauling of 01No of 110KV class ABB make pneumatic operated SF6 circuit breaker at 110KV S/s Kadanakoppa, Hubballi.
Enquiry Details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned from 24/06/2024 at 10:00Hrs onwards.The last date for receipt of completed bid is at 1:30 PM on 08/07/2024 and date of opening of bids on 08/07/2024 at 4:00PM onwards.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele),
TL & SS Division, KPTCL, Vidyuth Nagar, Hubballi.

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED
e-TENDER NOTICE
The TGTRANSCO invites online Bids on e-procurement platform for supply of the following equipment. Tender Specification No. TGPMM11-16/2024, Description of Equipment: 220KV, 132KV & 33KV Solid Core Insulators. Bidders can have further details & download the tender schedule from e-procurement platform @ www.tender.telangana.gov.in (Telangana State). Contact Nos: O/o. The Chief Engineer/P&MM, TGTransco, Hyderabad. Phone: 040-2339600, Extn.: 3670/3583/3276/3522. Fax: 040-23303736, www.tgtransco.com. Sd/-
R.O. No. : 104-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 Chief Engineer/P&MM

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SEE/T(W&M)/MYS/EEE(O)/AE-1/24-25/1077-80 Date: 20.06.2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)
KPTCL invites bids for the below mentioned works on Total Turnkey Basis.
Bid enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TWM/Mys/GCB/152 Dt: 20.06.2024 for Providing and replacing obsolete 66kV CTs of 3 Nos of 100MVA Transformers and 04 Nos of 66kV Lines at 220/66/11kV SRS Hootgally R/s., Mysuru.
The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 25.06.2024. Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elec.,
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, I Floor,
'Prasarana Bhavana', N.R.Mohalla, Mysuru-570 007

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are hereby informed that our clients have negotiated to purchase the Schedule Property from its present Owners namely Sri Ramesh Holla K, Sri K. N. Umesha Holla, Sri K. N. Dinesh Holla, Smt Usha R. Prasad, Smt K. N. Sudha, Sri Satish C. G, Smt Shashikala G. Bhaskar, Smt Lakshmi Bhat, Sri Prithveesha Govinda Bhaskara, Smt Veena Kumari, Smt Asha Latha, Sri Sridhara, Smt Sridevi, Sri Srinivasa, Smt Swarna Gowri, Sri A. N. Padmanabha Rao, Sri A. N. Lakshmeesha Rao, Sri Venu Madhav Rao A. N, Sri A. N Pavan Kumar, Sri U. Ananthesha Rao, Sri B. Rama Rao, Smt B. R. Shubha, Smt B. R. Rekha, Sri A. P. Vasudeva Rao, Smt Srilatha L. N, Smt Sujatha, Smt Jayanthi, Smt A. P. Malathi, Sri A. P. Vijaya Kumar @ Rajanna, Sri A. P. Srikanth, Sri A. P. Guru Prasad, Smt A. P. Jyothi, Smt Sridevi K. R, Smt Chandrika K. R, Sri M. G. V. Dasappaiah and Smt M. Mohini, who are the legatees of Late Smt M. Sarojini, daughter of Late M Govinda. Rao. Late Smt M. Sarojini has jointly bequeathed the Schedule Property to the legatees in terms under the Will dated 12/11/2008. That apart, we are investigating the title to the property and this notice is issued to concerned public at large that if any person/s, any financial institution/s, etc., has/have any rights other than the present Owners and/or have any pre-existing rights, objections or claim of any nature over the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the relevant persons or entity are requested to lodge their written objections/claims with necessary documentary proof to the undersigned within FIFTEEN DAYS from the date of publication. If no objections or claims along with proof are forthcoming within the said period, our clients shall construe that the Schedule Property is free from encumbrances, claims or hold and any subsequent objection/claims raised thereafter shall not be considered and the same shall not be held responsible by our clients and they shall proceed with finalising the Schedule Property from present said owners/holding rights.
:SCHEDULE PROPERTY:
All that Residential Property bearing B.B.M.P. Municipal New No.17 (Old No.335), in layout formed by the Karnataka Housing Board, situated at Mahalakshmipuram Extension, Bangalore, presently known as 10th Cross, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bengaluru, within the jurisdiction of B.B.M.P. Ward No.68 - Mahalakshmipuram, having Unique Property ID (P.I.D.) No.10-31-17, Bengaluru. The Site/Land measuring East-to-West: 30 Feet and North-to-South: 46 Feet, in all measuring about 1,380 Square Feet, together with residential building consisting of Ground Floor and First Floor respectively and the property is bounded by:
East : Property bearing No.336; West : Private Property;
North : 10th Cross Road; and South : Private Property
Place: Bengaluru
Dated: 22-06-20204
S.R.BALASUBRAMANYAM & S.KEERTHIKAR, Advocates,
No.216, 4th Main Road, 3rd Phase, J.P.Nagar,
Bengaluru - 560 078. Mob: 9845007515/9845066604.
e-mail: srbalu@gmail.com

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र. / SRIHARIKOTA - 524124
संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE
ई–निविदा सूचना सं. / e- Tender Notice No:SHAR/CMD/E/B 2487202/2024-25 Corrigendum तिथि/ Date. 21.06.2024
भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, "चांदीपुर, उड़ीसा में पर्यावरणीय एवं अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान सुविधा (एएसआरएफ)। (विद्युत कार्य)।" (अनुमानित लागत: ₹297.54 लाख के लिए ई–निविदा के माध्यम से मद दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज 30.06.2024 को 14:30 बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in या www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO पर जा सकते हैं।
On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for "Atmospheric and Space Research Facility (ASRF) at Chandipur, Odisha. (Electrical works)" (Estimated cost: ₹297.54 Lakhs). Tender documents can be downloaded up to 30.06.2024 , 14:30 hrs. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.
हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/02-2024-25
Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/P&C/T-02/0624[RFX No.5000001235] (Two Bid System) Procurement of Van Mounted Ground EHV Cable Fault Locator System.	3295 Lakhs / 25000.00	22.07.2024 Up to 16.00 Hrs. / 22.07.2024 At 16:10Hrs.

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (Gr.P&C)
Tel. No. : 022- 69852720/69852717/08329909813
Email: eepc@mahatransco.in,
For further details visit our website http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in. So bidders are requested to check the website.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only Through KPP Portal)
BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.
Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM-East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
IFT No: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/251/2024-25		Dated: 21.06.2024
1.	Project Monitoring Consultancy Service for the estimates for work of providing and laying of 1000/1200/1800/2000mm dia RCC NP-3 Class sewer pipeline from 7th Main Road, Garvebhavipalya along HSR Layout upto Agaram STP and Construction of Wet Well at HSR Layout under AEE(WWM-N-K&T) Valley-2 Sub Division at various locations.	₹ 201.00 Lakhs / ₹ 3.015 Lakhs
IFT No: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/253/2024-25		Dated: 21.06.2024
2.	Project Monitoring Consultancy Service for the a) Work of providing & laying 900/1200/1400mm dia RCC NP-3 Class sewerline including Trenchless Technology Method from MV Garden to Amarjyothi Layout ISPS Domluru. b) Work of Design, Engineering Construction and commissioning of Constructing ISPS Domuluru to 218 MLD STP Challaghatta with 5 years O&M.	₹ 154.00 Lakhs / ₹ 2.31 Lakhs

For the above works The last date and time for Receipt of completed tenders will be on 08.07.2024 upto 17:30 hrs. The Technical tender opening is on 10.07.2024 at 16:00 hrs.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (WWM-E)
The details regarding participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours. DIPR/508/2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
LABORATORY FOR ELECTRO-OPTICS SYSTEMS (LEOS)
PEENYA, BANGALORE-560058. LEOS CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (LCMG)
[Phone: (080)-22685088, 5193, 5093, 5086, Fax: (080)-28392310]
BRIEF NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (NIET)
On behalf of the President of India, item rate e- tender are invited for the following works:
Name of the work; NIT NO & Date : Proposed work for refurbishment of Electrical panel rooms at LEOS Campus, Peenya, Bengaluru-58. NIET No: CMG/LEOS/2024-25/LMN-03 Dtd: 19.06.2024 Estimated cost put to tender & EMD in Rs. 17.82Lakhs EMD Rs: 35,637/- Period of Completion in months : 03 months Tender document can be downloaded from : Opening Date : 21.06.2024 Closing Date : 09.07.2024
Name of the work; NIT NO & Date : Proposed Conference Hall extension AHU room construction at ground floor Admin Block, LEOS Campus Peenya, Bengaluru-58.(Civil works) NIET No: LEOS/CMG/CW-01/2024-25 Dtd: 20.06.2024 Estimated cost put to tender & EMD in Rs. 57.77Lakhs EMD Rs: 2,88,844/- Period of Completion in months : 05 months Tender document can be downloaded from : Opening Date : 21.06.2024 Closing Date : 09.07.2024
Name of the work; NIT NO & Date : Carrying out Pollution emission test Exhaust Smoke & Noise level of LT DG Sets for a period of two years at LEOS Campuses, Peenya, Bengaluru-560058. NIET No: LEOS/CMG/EMN-03/2024-25 Dtd: 20.06.2024 Estimated cost put to tender & EMD in Rs. 3.84Lakhs EMD Rs: 7,680/- Period of Completion in months : 24 months Tender document can be downloaded from : Opening Date : 26.06.2024 Closing Date : 12.07.2024
Name of the work; NIT NO & Date : Electrical works for proposed Conference Hall Extension, AHU Room Construction at ground floor Admin Block LEOS Campus Peenya, Bengaluru - 560058. NIET No: LEOS/CMG/EMW-05/2024-25 Dtd: 20.06.2024 Estimated cost put to tender & EMD in Rs. 9.47Lakhs EMD Rs: 18,940/- Period of Completion in months : 05 months Tender document can be downloaded from : Opening Date : 27.06.2024 Closing Date : 15.07.2024
Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting e-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO
-Sd- GROUP DIRECTOR
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (C&MG)
URSC, BANGLAORE.

EDITORIAL

The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country

Franklin D Roosevelt

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CEDE SOME GROUND ON GST

THE Modi government, in its new stint, seems to have changed tack. The government has realised that arbitrary policymaking without taking the stakeholders into confidence may ultimately lead to disillusionment of the people. This was visible in the way the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reached out to GST taxpayers during her post-GST Council Meeting press briefing on Saturday. She took the opportunity to hold out an olive branch to businesses saying the government has no intention of making life difficult for them. She sounded out that the government is not there to send GST notices to businesses left, right and centre. The Council's decisions also reflected the same tone and tenor. The GST Council, which had its 53rd meeting, did look to address many common issues raised by taxpayers. Many decisions were more in favour of taxpayers than for revenue enhancement. Though some key thorny issues were left untouched, it would be interesting to see how the new-look Council with 11 fresh members addresses larger issues like rate rationalisation and inclusion of petrol and diesel under the GST regime.

GST collections have been robust with monthly revenue showing 10-12% increase year-on-year. In April 2024, monthly collections crossed ₹2 lakh crore for the first time in almost seven years. While the surge in GST collection is partly attributed to increased economic activities in the country, a large part of it is said to have been due to strict rules to ensure compliance. The government has tightened screws on tax evaders, fake claimants of input tax credit and fraudulent assessees. These measures have led to robust collections but the field officers of the GST department have been a bit overzealous leading to harassment of taxpayers. Cases of forced tax payments and unnecessary raids and notices have become commonplace under GST. While FM Sitharaman has said only 1.96% registered taxpayers have received notices by the Central GST department, she added that state GST officials should be judicious in using coercive measures to 'extort' GST from taxpayers. The 2024 Parliament election results were an indication that people voted out of anger and angst. Business owners as well as common people felt the burden of an overzealous government going the extra mile to fill government coffers. It is expected that parties in power in states would also take lessons from the general election results and curb their high-handed policies.

HOOCH TRAGEDIES REPEAT BUT NO LESSONS LEARNT

ABOUT a year after 22 people lost their lives consuming hooch spiked with poisonous methanol in Tamil Nadu, another 56 people have died in the state from imbibing a similarly toxic brew. It would be an understatement to term the events of the past week as tragic, as families dependent on daily wages have lost their breadwinners, children, their parents and entire communities have been shattered. While the state government has announced solatium for the kin of deceased and financial aid for children who lost their parents, this is only the barest minimum it can do having grossly failed to fulfil its duty to control the movement of methanol and the brewing and sale of illicit liquor.

This failure is starker given last year's tragedy unfolded just 160 km away from Kallakurichi district, which was affected this past week. The government transferred out the district's collector and suspended the superintendent of police, both of whom initially denied deaths were due to hooch. Action has also been taken against cops in the prohibition and enforcement wing. For the families, who have lost loved ones, however, this is poor solace. Locals have said the hooch was openly sold near the local police station; police were clearly complicit. Opposition parties have alleged that the illegal business also had political backers, a charge that needs to be investigated and acted upon transparently. If the DMK government does not take meaningful action that goes to the root of the problem - apathy and corruption - the loss of public faith will be near impossible to recover.

In 2008, nearly 180 people from TN and Karnataka died after consuming spurious alcohol. Till 2023, TN had not seen hooch deaths since. While the usual suspects in TN have again raised the call for prohibition, what is needed is enforcement of existing laws, raising awareness of the risks of hooch and reform of the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation. The state-run Tasmac controls liquor sales in TN and is a revenue-spinner. However, state control of alcohol, ostensibly for the welfare of the public, is only meaningful if products are accessible to the people. Yet, people have died consuming illicit liquor purchased for ₹60 despite a Tasmac outlet being less than a kilometre away as even the cheapest licit liquor costs 2.5 times as much.

QUICK TAKE

BEING DOGS' BEST FRIEND

THE harrowing video of a woman narrowly escaping a pack of aggressive stray dogs in Hyderabad brings back an issue that's increasingly troubling Indian cities. Indian lore has recorded dogs in human habitats for millenniums. Strays as an urban issue has been recorded at least since the 1860s. Mass birth-control and anti-rabies programmes were adopted by the Animal Welfare Board in 1997. But the pandemic put paid to the progress. Puppy populations boomed and sterilisation suffered, leading to more aggressive packs. The only way to make things better for both humans and dogs is to expand the sterilisation and vaccination programmes. Municipalities need to take the lead on this.

Modi was lauded as the leader who would catapult India into the 21st century as a global superpower. This belief helped the party in 2019; by 2024, fatigue had set in

VOICE OF PEOPLE: BJP'S COALITION GOVERNMENT

KAPIL SIBAL

Senior lawyer and member of Rajya Sabha

SOURAV ROY

THE outcome of June 4, 2024 has thrown up some interesting trends. We will try and analyse who lost and who won. First, let us start with the BJP.

The BJP had captured almost all institutions in this country and the mainstream media was depicting Modi as the best thing that happened to India. This had benefic and malefic effects, both short term and long term. Every event in which he participated or led in the last 10 years at the national and international level, every action, and all his shenanigans were repeated and magnified. His speeches lauding his own contributions and in contrast, vilifying in the most acerbic terms the failures of the opposition, in particular of the Congress, were perceived as true. It was as if Modi could catapult India into the 21st century as a global power and deliver for his party, on promises made and dreams sold. The BJP as a party, with a Teflon-coated Modi image, was seen to be an impregnable fort, almost invincible. Modi made people believe he was their saviour, remedying the historic faults of the Congress since independence. This narrative being played in and out 24/7 had a beneficial effect for his party in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. By the time the 2024 elections came around, fatigue had set in.

Blatant and unjust misuse of investigating agencies in prosecuting only opposition leaders including chief ministers, keeping them away from the electoral process, sent a very negative signal during the course of a serious electoral battle. Even the middle class, largely for Modi, did not appreciate the selective prosecution and inaction against those who were a part of or aligned with the establishment though perceived to be highly corrupt. In fact, some of them were forced to defect and join the BJP under threat of prosecution. Such motivated actions may have benefitted the BJP in some states, including Delhi and Jharkhand. Having said that, the Modi monotone was getting counterproductive.

The blatantly biased functioning of the Election Commission of India (ECI) was yet another reason for public disapprobation. Despite Modi's openly culpable statements in the midst of the elections, the ECI chose not to act. This was not lost to the ordinary voters in the remote corners of the country, thanks to social media. This too impacted the outcome.

The interference by governors in the functioning of the state legislatures, indulging in politics to overthrow elected governments through means which, to the public mind, were corrupt, added to the already simmering disenchantment. In West Bengal, despite the battle cry aided by the governor trying to queer the pitch, it did not prevent a Mamata victory. Mamata's popularity coupled with the electoral management made her fortress impregnable. Kudos to her!

Too much of Modi and too little delivery on the ground made Modi a controversial character. His faults were depicted on every social media platform and with mobile phones in almost every hand, the Modi mania had petered out; it was easier to access social media platforms than sit around watching mainstream TV channels. What benefitted him in 2019 hurt him in 2024.

Realising that the first two phases of the Lok Sabha elections had not gone off too well, he started making speeches that did not befit the office he occupied. His statement that if Congress came to power, it would shower benefits to those who produce more children sought to create societal divisions, which he thought, would help him in the remaining phases. That did not happen.

His choices in appointment of chief ministers over and above stalwarts and seniors in the party brought about a level of discontent, which ultimately reflected in the statements of Mohan Bhagwat. In other words, even the RSS was concerned that Modi was inconsistent with the culture of the RSS of which he himself is a *pracharak*. It was Modi versus the rest; it seemed the BJP was subsumed by Modi's personality. The '400 *paar*' slogan boomeranged.

The nation has rejected Modi without any doubt because the people of India have not voted for the BJP coming back to power on its own. The vote was clearly for an alternative government.

As far as the Congress is concerned, the response of the people is somewhat mixed. The Congress gained, apart from a few exceptions. Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra brought huge dividends for the Congress, but only when it allied with other major players of the respective states. When it came to states like Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Uttarakhand, the Congress lost out. Rajasthan was perhaps persuaded by local factors like Vashundhara not campaigning in all constituencies, having been denied the post of chief minister, apart from a united effort by Congress. In Punjab and Kerala, people had no other option but to vote for the alliance. There were gains in the Northeast because the chief ministers there seemed to replicate what Modi was doing at the national level. The Congress did well in Telangana where it was already in power.

Above all, the 'Bharat Jodo Yatras', thanks to Rahul, galvanised people. Priyanka's speeches were focused and combative, fitting replies to Modi's anti-Congress rants. There were three other factors: one, the handling of the economy with the price rise, which hurt ordinary people. Two, large scale unemployment where the youth were disenchanted with Modi. And three, that Modi had delivered for the rich—a narrative also fuelled by the electoral bonds judgement of the Supreme Court—which suggested to people that the scheme was meant only to benefit the BJP. It is this mixed result that almost doubled the Congress tally, though not enough to catch the imagination of the people.

So, the people in fact voted for a coalition government, not for yet another Modi juggernaut. Henceforth, what the coalition partners have to watch out for is to prevent being swallowed, as happened in Odisha. All alliance partners in the past left BJP, including the Akalis, the AIADMK and, of course, the Shiv Shena, to name a few.

The times ahead for Modi will be turbulent. If the Congress can get its act together, 2029 is for the asking.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @KapilSibal)

THINGS THAT HAVE LED GREAT PEOPLE TO ENLIGHTENMENT

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

HOW do we describe an *anubhuti* or sensation of God's benevolent hand? I connect it with 'entheon', a place to discover 'God-within'. The mysterious *Soma Rasa* of the Vedas apparently sparked 'God-visions'. The Eucharist ("This is my body and this, my blood") performed with wafer and wine, say some, is a later version of the wine that induced divine inner visions in the first Christians.

A story you may like in this regard is about great Iranian poet Hafiz, born in the early 14th century in Shiraz, once famous as the city of wine and roses. The son of a coal merchant who died in debt, Hafiz was raised by an uncle and worked for a draper and then as a baker's boy. While doing delivery in a rich neighbourhood, he chanced to see Shakh-e-Nabat, a young woman of exquisite beauty. She remained the unattainable love of his life and many poems were addressed to her.

The utter impossibility of his love led Hafiz to God. After many 40-day prayer-vigils, his moment of 'God-realisation' or 'cosmic consciousness' came at 60. On the last day of his vigil, he met his spiritual guide Attar of Shiraz (not the famous Farid-ud-din Attar of Nishapur from two centuries earlier). He gave Hafiz a cup of wine and that's when he had his 'God moment'. A prodigious output of 500 *ghazals* (songs), 42 *rubais* (quatrains) and some *qasidas* (poems of praise) followed, written only when divinely inspired. He died at 69.

The orthodox mullahs detested Hafiz and tried to oppose his burial by regular rites. But common people of Shiraz loved him, and still do, as I discovered on my visit there. To defuse the conflict, they divided Hafiz's poetry into couplets and asked a little boy to choose one, agreeing to do as it suggested. The child drew a classic Hafiz barb at the orthodoxy: "Neither Hafiz's corpse nor life negates him: with all his misdeeds, Heaven awaits him." So, it is something that came to Hafiz through his *anubhuti*, the 'entheon' in Greek, from which English gets 'enthusiasm'.

Sometimes, God-love is in our destiny. In several *Puranas*, including the 11th *skanda* of the *Srimad Bhagvatam*, it was foretold a great devotee of Narayana would be born in the southern country in the region watered by the river Palar, present-day north Tamil Nadu. And sage Valmiki wrote: "In the month of Chaitra under the ninth lunar mansion, when the sun had gone to the zodiac sign of Cancer, Lakshmana and Shatrughna were born." So, when a son was born in 1027 CE to Kesavacharya in Sriperumbudur in the same birth month and zodiac sign as the sons of Sumitra, he was convinced his baby was Lakshmana reborn and named him Ramanuja, meaning Rama's younger brother.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

> The son of a coal merchant who died in debt, Iranian poet Hafiz was led to God by an impossible love, at the age of 60. He wrote 500 *ghazals* (songs), 42 *rubais* (quatrains) and some *qasidas* (poems of praise). He died at 69

Ramanuja's brilliance shone from childhood. He had to hear a lesson only once from his teacher to grasp its meaning, however difficult it was, and he frequently sought out the company of holy men.

At that time, a well-reputed devotee called Sri Kanchipurna lived in Kanchipuram. He went daily from Kanchi to Poonamalli, a neighbouring village, to worship the deity there. Sriperumbudur is midway between these two places, so he would pass Ramanuja's house every day. Though born "outcaste", he was revered by priests because of his deep devotion.

One evening, Ramanuja met Sri Kanchipurna. Seeing the *tejas* or lustre of Kanchipurna's face, he felt greatly drawn to him. Very humbly, Ramanuja requested him to eat at his house that night. After Kanchipurna had eaten, Ramanuja went to press his feet in service. When the guest protested, citing caste, Ramanuja's face fell. "It is my misfortune if I cannot serve you. Is it the wearing of a sacred thread that makes a brahmin? Only he who is devoted to God is a genuine brahmin." It was Ramanuja's entheon or God-within that spoke. Struck by his devotion, Sri Kanchipurna had a long conversation with him and went his way the next day. They remained greatly attached to each other.

Though lost in thoughts of this mystic heritage, a fractured toe was my particular souvenir of a trip to the Kaveri basin in Tamil Nadu through the fabulous historical belt called Chola Nadu. Every name you went past there was resonant with music, history and *bhakti*: Swami Malai, Darasuram, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur, Seergazhi, Chidambaram, Thiruppanandar, Thiruvalangadu—they rang like a litany.

Chidambaram ('*chit-ambalam*' meaning 'little temple' in old Tamil) is extra special, as it is the one place where Shiva is worshipped as Nataraja, Lord of Dance. It's still called 'Thillai' after the swampy trees that once surrounded it, but there isn't even one to be found near the temple now. I hobbled in through the South Gopuram, the gate through which saint Thirugnana Sambandar entered in the 7th century. I had to sprint to catch the spectacular noon *arati* before the sanctum was closed. But I remember feeling peaceful, thinking, "I wasn't supposed to come to Chidambaram, so if I'm here, I guess I'll get darshan."

And I did. But then I felt faint with hunger, fatigue and pain and just wanted to curl up in a cool temple corridor and rest. Suddenly, a voice called from behind a granite pillar. It was a priest, offering lemon and curd rice from stainless steel buckets. I ate some gladly and asked, "May I have more, I'm so hungry." You'll never believe what he said: "I'm happy you're asking. Some people don't like to eat temple food." I can't imagine why, when it's a gift in God's name. I like to think of this incident as an entheon moment, an *anubhuti*, being unexpectedly fed by God's kindness when I needed it.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Domain experts

Ref: *Vaishnaw a minister for all seasons & reasons* (Jun 23). Domain experts play an indispensable role in governance as much as the political leadership does. The trend was first set by P V Narasimha Rao, who appointed non-political financial wizard Dr Manmohan Singh as the finance minister in 1991. One of the reasons for the Modi government's success is entrusting key portfolios to domain experts.
Venkat Desikan, Chennai

Untold suffering

Ref: *NTA head rolls; NEET-PG on hold* (Jun 23). The 11th-hour postponement of NEET-PG has caused untold suffering to aspirants as many already reached their destination after travelling hundreds of kilometres. Had this been announced at least two days earlier, a lot of expenses could have been avoided.
G Nataraja Perumal, Belagavi

Condemnable act

The deferring of NEET-PG at the 11th hour is highly condemnable. Playing with the emotions and future of lakhs of aspirants, who have been fervently preparing over the years for these exams, will further aggravate their trauma. With many hailing from a modest background and most of them having reached the examination centre, who will be held accountable for their expenses?
M Rishidev, Dindigul

Weaponising tragedy

Scores of people dying in the Kallakurichi liquor tragedy in Tamil Nadu is treated more as a weapon to seek vengeance against the ruling party than seeking a lasting solution. The BJP is making so much noise, forgetting it just kept quiet when 27 people died in Gujarat in 2022 in a similar incident. No doubt, politicians involved in such activities should be taken to task.
A G Rajmohan, Anantapur

Illicit liquor

The Kallakurichi tragedy claimed at least 34 lives and hospitalised many, raising serious concerns in Tamil Nadu. Despite legal liquor sales within specified hours, the incident highlights the persistent issue of illicit alcohol, where bootleggers often adulterate with dangerous substances like methanol.
Vijaykumar H K, Raichur

Escalator facilities

It's heartening that the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation has decided to construct two new foot over-bridges. Though it is meant to help older people, they may not be able to use it as most of them often suffer from arthritis or other leg problems. So authorities should provide a lift or escalator facility.
V Venkitasubramanian, Coimbatore

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Hardeep Singh Puri @HardeepSPuri
Uttar Pradesh is not only known for its contribution to our civilisation but has also produced innumerable literary luminaries, political stalwarts & achievers.

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
Why was Ramesh Chandappa Jigajinagi, a BJP MP who is also in his 7th consecutive term, not been considered for Speaker post? Because he is a Dalit like Suresh?

Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury
These entrance exam scams must be thoroughly probed and culprits punished. Handing over to the CBI means a total whitewash, like the CBI did with the Vyapam scam.

Shocked and depressed: NEET-PG aspirants

The single entrance exam for medical admissions has been cancelled for third time this year

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

Police leave with the accused arrested in connection with NEET-UG case, after their medical examination in Patna on Sunday | PTI

TRAVELLING from Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh to take her NEET-PG in Jaipur, Seetha (name changed) got to know that the exam has been cancelled. The 23-year-old is shocked as her one year's hard work went waste. "She is in shock and can't speak. We are trying to motivate her. My parents are very concerned," said her brother, also a doctor and doing residency in Rajasthan.

That's the condition of an estimated 2 lakh NEET-PG students who got to know on Saturday night that the Sunday exam of NEET-PG, a single entrance examination for admission to MD/MS and PG diploma courses, has been cancelled, for the third time this year. Many said the "arbitrary way" the PG exam was cancelled after the NEET-UG fiasco shows that medical education in India is a "complete mess."

As some students said they should sue the authorities for causing them psychological and monetary damage, the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association said they are ready to give free psychiatric services to NEET-PG aspirants "suffering from mental trauma".

"Government should compensate medical students and PG aspirants. No one is highlighting the students' mental state. Three exams have been postponed back to back. They have taken the education sector for a ride," said Dr Dhruv Chauhan, national council coordinator of the Indian Medical Association-Junior Doctors Network.

The National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences conducts the NEET-PG exam. Over 2 lakh MBBS graduates appeared for the computer-based exam for around 52,000 PG seats nationwide. Students have to study 20 subjects and attempt 200 MCQ questions.

It is a double whammy for Dr Sahifa Harem, a NEET-PG aspirant. Her brother, Shanawar Hussain, took NEET-UG, and the family is worried amid the controversy. "Don't know which is more shocking – the UG controversy or PG exam cancellation," said Harem.

She was looking forward to joining Apollo Hospital in Delhi in the paediatrics department on Monday, a day after the scheduled exam. "I was working in Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital, but left it in December last year to concentrate on my studies as initially, the exam was to be held in March. It was postponed to July, and then to June 23. Now again there is no certainty when it will be held," said Harem from Begusarai.

Fresh plea on NEET in SC

A group of 10 students who had appeared for the NEET-UG examination has filed a fresh petition in the Supreme Court seeking directions to the CBI and ED to investigate the alleged irregularities in the medical entrance held on May 5. The petition has also sought a direction from the court to the Bihar police to expedite investigation.

Delhi-based Dr Jyoti Gupta said she is returning from Merrut, where her examination centre was. "I reached Meerut a day before the exam and stayed in a hotel. Now, I am dejected. I don't know when I should start my studies again. This is so frustrating."

Dr Akash Soni, who has been working as a medical officer in Singrauli PHC in Madhya Pradesh, said he took leave to travel overnight by train to reach the Bhopal centre. "Since Covid-19, we have been seeing this uncertainty. It is like students pursuing medical education have become a guinea pig for the authorities to experiment on," Soni said.

Solver gang: 10 MBBS students under scanner

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

MORE than 10 MBBS students of government medical colleges in Bihar and Jharkhand are under the scrutiny of Bihar police's Economic Offences Unit (EOU) for their alleged involvement in NEET-UG question paper leak case, officials associated with the investigation revealed on Sunday.

The students were associated with inter-state 'solver gang' led by Sanjeev Mukhiya alias Lutan, a resident of Nalanda district. They are learnt to be beneficiaries of the racket involved in leak of question paper for medical entrance examination by the gang.

The list of the students has been prepared on the basis of information elicited from six members of the 'solver gang' arrested from Jharkhand. Raids were conducted in Ranchi and Hazaribagh in search of the students, but they could not be arrested, officials said.

Investigation revealed that Sanjeev Mukhiya initially worked for an education mafia Ranjeet Don of Nalanda. Mukhiya's son Shiv is learnt to have done his MMBS from Patna Medical College and Hospital and is now lodged in Beur central jail.

Shiv is an accused in the leak of question paper of teachers' recruitment through Bihar Public Service Commission.

Meanwhile, EOU has stumbled upon evidence on NEET-UG paper leak, officials said.

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI
The writer is Resident Editor TNIE, New Delhi.
Follow him on X@Shahid_Faridi_

New BJP President

RAJNATH, SHIVRAJ RSS PICKS; TAWDE, BANSAL PM's

The race for heading the world's largest party is heating up. The term of J P Nadda, who is currently heading the BJP, is ending on June 30. The party leadership has been in touch with the RSS to find a candidate acceptable to all. According to sources, the RSS leadership has indicated its preference for Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Shivraj Singh Chauhan. The Sangh Parivar fountainhead wants one of these two ministers to resign from the government and take over as the party president. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, however, are not keen to let go of the ministers. They want to elevate one of the effective party functionaries to the top job. Among their favourites are national general secretaries Vinod Tawde and Sunil Bansal. Both these leaders have risen through the ranks and have proved their worth in the organization. The appointment of one of them as party chief was expected to go through smoothly. But the RSS has reportedly stepped up pressure on the BJP leadership to accommodate its opinion in this critical organisational appointment. Sources, however, said that the Prime Minister is not keen to cede control of the party and is likely to soon appoint either Tawde or Bansal as executive president. There is also a chance of the party giving Nadda a short extension in order to avoid confrontation with the RSS.

Poll Preparations

BJP EYES ANOTHER PROMINENT HARYANA FAMILY

After inducting into the party the descendants of two of the three famous Lals of Haryana – Bhajan Lal and Bansi Lal – and allying with the third – Devi Lal, the BJP is now eyeing another prominent family of Haryana. According to sources, the party is keen to bring into its fold Kuldip Sharma, son of four time MP and one of the most respected Brahmin leaders of Haryana Pandit Chiranji Lal Sharma. Kuldeep Sharma is a member of the Congress and is a former Speaker of the Haryana Assembly. With the Congress wresting five out of the 10 Lok Sabha seats from the BJP in the recent elections, the ruling party is pulling out all stops to retain power in the state where assembly elections are due in October this year. Inducting Kuldip Sharma is part of this plan. But the Congress has reached out to Sharma to persuade him against giving in to the BJP's overtures. Party leader and former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda publicly requested Sharma not to leave the party. "Panditji Bhajna mat. Hamein teri vidhan sabha mein jaroorat hai," he announced from a stage where Sharma was seated. Though Sharma made some conciliatory noises, sources said he continues to be in touch with the BJP. Last week, Congress leader Kiran Choudhry, daughter-in-law of former chief minister Bansi Lal, had joined the BJP. Former Congress chief minister Bhajan Lal's son Kuldeep Bishnoi had joined the party last year. Another former Haryana chief minister Rao Birendra Singh's son, Rao Inderjit Singh, is a minister in the Modi government. The party is working on further expansion in the state.

INDIA bloc to decide on pro-tem Speaker panel after meet, says Suresh

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

Droupadi Murmu appointed Mahtab as the pro-tem Speaker. Murmu also nominated a panel of senior MPs comprising Suresh, DMK MP TR Baalu, TMC's Sudip Bandyopadhyay, and BJP leaders Radha Mohan Singh and Faggan Singh Kulaste to assist Mahtab.

AMID an escalating row over the appointment of Bhartruhari Mahtab as the pro-tem Speaker, senior Congress leader and Lok Sabha MP **Kodikunnil Suresh** on Sunday said that a meeting of the INDIA bloc leaders will decide whether to pull out from the panel to assist Mahtab or not.

Suresh is also part of the panel appointed by the President to assist Mahtab in administering the oath of affirmation to the newly elected MPs.

The Opposition is considering to boycott the panel to protest against the Centre's alleged violation of procedures and conventions, bypassing Suresh, an eight-term member, while making the appointment.

Speaking to this newspaper, Suresh said that though suggestions have come up not to join the panel of chairpersons to assist Mahtab, a final decision will be taken before the beginning of the session. "A final decision will be taken today or tomorrow," said Suresh.

Early this week, President

Suresh said that the government violated conventions by appointing Mahtab. "The parliamentary affairs minister argues that I didn't have eight uninterrupted terms as an LS MP. But Mahtab served as a BJD MP for six terms and became a BJP MP for the first time now. How can a person who jumped ship administer an oath to the newly elected MPs?" he said.

"That was a lame excuse. Even if I had won eight times in a row, they would have come up with other reasons," he said.

BJP, allies prepare to fight Oppn onslaught on NEET

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE first session of the 18th Lok Sabha starting Monday with 543 newly elected members is likely to be stormy. The ruling BJP and its allies in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) are geared to counter the Opposition in the aftermath of alleged anomalies in the NEET-UG exams. The session will continue till July 3.

The BJP is learnt to have armed itself with facts on action taken against those responsible for the anomalies and the government commitment to probe the episode by CBI.

"We know the stage is set for a showdown between the ruling coalition and the Opposition led by the Congress under the banner of INDIA bloc. We will expose the Opposition on various issues such as corruption and the recent hooch tragedy in Tamil Nadu," said a senior BJP legislator.

The focal point of the BJP strategy will be to counter the allegation related to the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and "political manipulation" of the INDIA bloc.

NDA to target DMK, TMC

The BJP-led NDA will seek to nail the DMK government over the recent hooch tragedy and post-poll violence in West Bengal. "We won't let INDIA bloc escape accountability in the hooch tragedy. We'll also take the ruling TMC to task for failing to curb violence in several parts of Bengal in the aftermath of the Lok Sabha polls," said a BJP MP.

A senior BJP MP said the Opposition was trying to politicise the issue for electoral gains. "We are prepared to reject the false narrative surrounding NEET," said the MP.

The BJP-led NDA plans to highlight the recent hooch tragedy in DMK-led Tamil Nadu. Over 50 people have been killed due to consumption of illicit liquor. "We will not let Congress and its allies evade accountability for their silence on the tragedy. This negligence will be exposed," said a newly elected BJP MP from south India, underscoring the coalition's determination to hold the Opposition accountable for their selective outrage.

BJP likely to back Om Birla as Speaker again

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

AMID speculation over the appointment of a new Lok Sabha Speaker, BJP sources hinted about Om Birla continuing in the post for a second term. Though probable candidates are being talked about, reportedly a consensus is building on the continuation of Om Birla.

A BJP source indicated that in the absence of a consensus on Birla, Radha Mohan Singh, a seven-time MP from Bihar, or Andhra BJP chief D Purandeshwari may be be considered.

The election of the Speaker is due on June 26, followed by President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint session of the two Houses.

Sources said the BJP, through defence minister Rajnath Singh and others, has sought suggestions on the Speaker's appointment.

Kanishka bombing worst act of terrorism ever: Jaishankar

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

Terror act

Kanishka bombing was seen as the worst act of terrorism until 9/11. The flight was enroute to Mumbai from Montreal when the bomb burst.

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday termed the 1985 Kanishka bombing, which claimed 329 lives, as "one of the worst acts of terrorism" in history.

His statement comes days after the Canadian Parliament paid tributes to Khalistan extremist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was gunned down in Surrey, British Columbia, last June.

"Today marks the 39th anniversary of one of the worst acts of terrorism in history. Paid my homage to the memory of the 329 victims of AI 182 'Kanishka' who were killed on this day in 1985. The anniversary is a reminder why terrorism should never be tolerated," said the EAM.

Kanishka bombing was seen among the worst in history. The flight departed from Montréal and was en route to Mumbai via London and New Delhi, when the bomb exploded off the Irish coast.

Rahul pens emotional letter to Wayanad before taking oath as Rae Bareli MP

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

TWO days before taking oath as Rae Bareli MP, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday wrote an emotional letter to the people of Wayanad, saying that their unconditional love protected him when he faced constant abuses.

The Congress leader said his sister Priyanka Gandhi will represent Wayanad if the people give her an opportunity and expressed confidence that she will do an excellent job at being their representative.

Describing them as his "refuge, family and home," Gandhi said they must have seen the sadness in his eyes when he announced his decision to resign from Wayanad seat and retain Rae Bareli.

Rahul won both the Wayanad and Rae Bareli Lok Sabha constituencies but had to give up

> **I was a stranger to you and yet you believed in me. You embraced me with unbridled love and affection. It didn't matter which political formation you supported, it didn't matter which community you were from or which religion you believed in or which language you spoke**
>
> Rahul Gandhi, Congress MP

one. "I was a stranger to you and yet you believed in me. You embraced me with unbridled love and affection. It didn't matter which political formation you supported, it didn't matter which community you were from or which religion you believed in or which language you spoke," Rahul said.

"When I faced abuse day after day, your unconditional love protected me. You were my refuge, my home and my family. I never felt for even a moment that you doubted me," he said.

Rahul also said he cannot forget the "bravery, beauty and confidence" with which young girls translate his speeches in front of thousands of people.

"I don't know how to thank you for what you have done for me. For the love and protection you gave me when I needed it the most. You are part of my family. I will always be there for each and every one of you," he said.

Shah takes stock of flood management readiness

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

Home Minister Amit Shah chairs the meeting to review flood preparedness | PTI

CHAIRING a high-level meeting to review preparedness for flood management during the upcoming monsoon season, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday directed the participating officials to create at least 50 large ponds in the northeast to divert water of the Brahmaputra to tackle floods and also use ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) data to take preventive measures.

Addressing the meeting, also attended by Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai and top officials of the government, Shah said large ponds would not only help in tackling the floods, but also in agriculture, irrigation and tourism.

Shah also took stock of the preparations to deal with Glacial Lake Outburst Flood and asked the officials to make efforts to upgrade the forecast system of water level of rivers for better flood management.

Recurring flooding of the Brahmaputra is a major issue for Assam and the northeast region as it claims scores of lives and inundates thousands of hectares of land every year.

Scores of people have been killed, hundreds rendered homeless and communication lines and road networks snapped in Sikkim and Uttarakhand in the last few years following flash floods created due to the glacial lake outburst, which has become another major concern for the government during monsoon.

Shah also impressed upon the officials to remain conscious of creating a natural drainage system as an integral part of the designs of road construction to deal with their inundation in case of floods.

He also instructed the departments concerned to hold a detailed study of the recent floods in Sikkim and Manipur and submit a report to the MHA.

The HM underscored the need to integrate weather, rainfall and flood warning related apps developed by various departments. He also reviewed long-term measures to formulate a comprehensive and far-reaching policy to mitigate the menace of floods in the country, the MHA said in a statement. Besides, Shah also assessed the action taken on the decisions made during last year's meeting, it added.

Shah appealed to all states and Union Territories to timely implement the advisories issued by National Disaster Management Authority for flood management. He asked the India Meteorological Department and the CWC to complete the process of recalibrating all the equipment used in flood forecast at the earliest including floodgates of all major dams.

He said the non-perennial rivers are prone to more soil erosion and siltation, resulting in floods.

CLOUDBURST

A cloudburst triggered multiple landslides and flooding in Itanagar, officials said. Despite heavy rains in Arunachal Pradesh over recent weeks, the weather had improved in the past two days with no forecast of rain, they added.

4 ARRESTED IN ATTACK ON TMC COUNCILLOR'S OFFICE

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	27	Mumbai	35	29
Bhopal	43	28	Panaji	32	28
Jaipur	41	30	Patna	41	27
Amritsar	40	23	Lucknow	42	27
Chennai	39	30	Port Blair	34	28
Kolkata	36	26	Imphal	23	18
Srinagar	18	08	Chandigarh	42	23

Border village to vote for first time

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

THE Bhotia tribe, residing in Mana, the first village in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district near the international border, is all set to vote in their native village for the first time since the formation of the state in the year 2000. The introduction of Electronic Voting Machine for the first time in the village has aroused enthusiasm among the people.

A total of 3,834 voters from Niti Valley and Mana are gearing up to participate in the upcoming Badrinath Assembly by-election to due on July 10.

Mana village is located at an altitude of 3,200 metres at the northern end of National Highway-7. Mana is only 25km from the Tibet border. Around 3km away lies the Hindu pilgrimage site of Badrinath.

Election office sources said out of 3,834 voters, 220 live in Nitigaon, 824 in Mana, 599 in Malari, 210 in Kailashpur, 836 in Gamshali, 393 in Jhelum, 243 in Kosha, 368 in Dronagiri and 141 in Jumma.

The district election office converted the primary school building in Mana into a polling booth. Maintenance work is underway. The rural residents of the Bhotia tribe from Niti Valley will also vote for the first time in their ancestral villages' polling centres.

Uttarakhand's chief election officer Dr BVRC Purushottam said there are nine villages from Suraithota to Niti in the Niti Valley, while the village of Mana is known for migration.

"It is the first instance since the state's formation that a by-election for the assembly is being held during Char Dham Yatra," he said.

In a phone conversation, Pitambar Molfa, the village head of Mana village, said, "There is a lot of enthusiasm among the villagers of Bhotia tribe in Niti and Mana valley about voting this time as they will vote for the first time in their own village."

Modi remarks raise hopes of J&K polls

EC announces special revision of electoral rolls; SC asked Centre to hold polls before Sept 30

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's statements during his recent visit to Srinagar and the Election Commission's announcement for special revision of electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir have raised hopes of early assembly polls in the Union Territory.

The revision of electoral rolls will start in J&K on July 25 and culminate on August 20, according to EC. "After the exercise is over, the EC may announce holding of assembly polls in the UT any time," a poll official said.

In December last year, the Supreme Court had directed the Centre to hold assembly polls in J&K before September 30. It would be the first assembly polls in J&K after the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of J&K state into two union territories on August 5, 2019. The last Assembly polls in J&K were held in 2014. J&K is presently under the direct rule of the Centre.

With a record voter turnout in the recently held Lok Sabha polls in J&K, especially Kashmir, it is likely that the voter turnout may be higher in the state polls in which local issues will figure, analysts said.

The five LS seats in J&K -- the first major electoral exercise post Article 370 abrogation -- recorded voter turnout of 58.58%, the highest in the last 35 years. After the PM's statements, political parties hope that polls will be held before the Supreme Court deadline. Not to lose the momentum the government, instead of waiting for more time especially after recent militant attacks in Jammu region, may prefer to hold assembly polls early, political observers said.

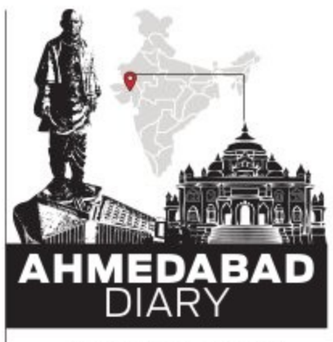
"After the BJP's vote share shrunk in the five LS seats in J&K, there was apprehension among political parties that the central government may not hold assembly polls immediately. But PM Modi's remarks on assembly polls have reignited hopes of early polls in the UT. Parties may go into poll mode and prepare strategies ," a political analyst said.

Since the nearly two-month Amarnath yatra would be completed by August 25, troops engaged in yatra duty will be deployed for election duties in the UT. After completion of the delimitation exercise following abrogation of Article 370, J&K's Assembly seats increased from 83 to 90, with 47 seats in Kashmir and 43 in Jammu region.

Of the 90 seats, seven seats have been reserved for SCs and nine for STs in the J&K assembly.

'Those helping militants to be booked under EAA'

J&K DGP R R Swain on Sunday said that militancy in Jammu would be wiped out in two-three months and warned that the locals who are found involved in supporting foreign militants in any form would be booked under the Enemy Agents Act (EAA), which is harsher than the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). He said militants active in Jammu region will be eliminated as security forces are after them.



DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
Our correspondent in Gujarat
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Won't forgive those who caused trouble: BJP MP

Amid ever-escalating tensions among Gujarat BJP leaders, BJP MLA Bhagwan Barde recently organized a felicitation event at Prachi in the Junagadh district. BJP MP Rajesh Chudasma issued a grim warning directed at his 'adversaries';"I will not forgive those who have caused me trouble over the past five years," the parliamentarian snarled. Chudasma also hit out at the protesters, asserting, "Regardless of BJP's actions, I will ensure that those who have wronged me during these five years face consequences." Tensions arose when the saffron party nominated Rajesh Chudasma as the Lok Sabha candidate from the Junagadh seat, prompting significant dissent.

BJP-backed candidates snubbed in local polls

The internal strife among Gujarat BJP leaders has indeed reached its zenith. Recent tensions arose when the BJP-endorsed candidates suffered defeats in the Jambusar agro-produce market committee elections in Gujarat. The widely-discussed polls saw Vanrajsinh Mori, son of former minister Chhatrasinh Mori, contesting and defeating BJP's champion Bhupendrasinh Rathore for the chairman post of 'Jambusar Khatiwadi Utpann Bazar Samiti' in Bharuch district. Rathore, supported by the saffron party, secured only 4 votes while Mori clinched victory with 15 votes.

SIT report on Rajkot fire: Gujarat CM meets PM

Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel visited Delhi on Saturday following the submission of the SIT report on the Rajkot game zone fire tragedy. He held a meeting with the Prime Minister, which reportedly lasted over an hour according to sources. Patel shared a photo of the meeting on his official social media handle, which showed him holding a folder with tagged papers. This sparked speculation among political commentators in Gujarat who suggested that the discussions may have included the course of action against corrupt officials linked to the game-zone fire that claimed 27 lives, mostly children, and the alleged 2,000 crore land issue' in Surat.

Fashion designer in the dock over yoga inside Golden Temple

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

INSTAGRAM influencer and fashion designer Archana Makwana has been booked for hurting religious sentiments after she performed yoga at the Golden Temple in Amritsar on the international yoga day.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Kuldeep Singh said, "We have checked the CCTV cameras installed in the temple complex. The girl did not pay obeisance in the sanctum sanctorum. Since it appears to be a move for publicity, an FIR has been registered," he said, adding that a case has been registered against her at Kotwali police station.

On Friday, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) lodged a police complaint with Amritsar Police Commissioner Ranjit Singh Dhillon against Makwana for performing yoga at golden temple, igniting a wave of outrage within the Sikh community. It has also taken disciplinary action against three 'sewadars' (employees) for allowing the woman to perform yoga in the 'Parikarma' of the temple.

The SGPC also fined a staffer ₹5,000 and transferred him to Gurdwara Garhi Sahib, Gurdas Nangal. SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhami said that the girl had hurt the Sikh sentiments. Meanwhile, Makwana apologized for her "mistake."

3RD BRIDGE COLLAPSE IN 6 DAYS

A portion of the under-construction bridge after it collapsed in Motihari district of Bihar on Sunday | EXPRESS

June 23: It took place in Motihari

Close on the heels of collapse of a small bridge in Bihar's Siwan district on Saturday, another under-construction bridge collapsed in East Champaran district on Sunday, marking the third such incident in less than a week in the state. However, no casualty was reported in the incident that happened in Ghorasahan block in Motihari. The 16-metre bridge being constructed at a cost of Rs.1.5 crore collapsed near Chainpur under Ghorasahan block in East Champaran district. The bridge connecting Patedhi to Garuali was being constructed by the state government's Rural Works Department.

June 22: Another cave-in at Siwan

An old bridge collapsed in Siwan district in Bihar on Saturday. The bridge was erected over a canal, connecting the villages of Daraunda and Maharajganj blocks, and it caved in at around 5 am, said DM Mukul Kumar Gupta. "Nobody was injured. It was a very old structure and pillars caved in when water was released through the canal. We are trying to ensure that until it is restored, residents of affected villages face as little inconvenience as possible," the DM said. Locals claimed the bridge was built way back in 1991 with contributions from the then Maharajganj MLA Uma Shankar Singh".

June 18: ₹10 cr down the river

A portion of a newly constructed bridge over the Bakra river in Bihar collapsed in Araria district on Tuesday, police said. There have been no reports of any fatality. The bridge, constructed by the Rural Works Department (RWD) at a cost of Rs 10 crore, was not opened to the public as approach roads were yet to be constructed. 'The bridge collapse is a serious matter and the department has initiated disciplinary action against three senior officials, who were associated with the project right from the beginning,' Dipak Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, RWD, said.

Nagaland BJP's ally cites Hindutva for poll debacle in Manipur

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

STUNG by their defeat in the Lok Sabha elections, allies BJP and Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) in Nagaland are now washing their dirty linen in public.

It all started after an MLA of the NDPP blamed "Hindu fanatics" and "anti-Christian" forces for the defeat of NDPP's Chumben Murry, who was the consensus candidate of ruling People's Democratic Alliance (PDA), to the Congress' 'superman' Supongmeren Jamir in the state's lone seat.

The BJP and the NDPP are two key components of the PDA. The result came as a big shock to the NDPP considering that Murry had the support of all 60 MLAs. The party felt people rejected it for aligning with the BJP, so it decided to go it alone in the Urban Local Bodies' polls which will be held after 20 years.

"We won't have any seat-sharing arrangement with anybody in the ULB elections. We learnt a big lesson in the Lok Sabha elections. We were punished because of somebody's fault," said Moatoshi Longkumer, who is an MLA of the NDPP.

Citing "atrocities" against Christians, including the burning down of churches in ethnic violence-hit Manipur and the Assam Healing (Prevention of Evil) Practices Bill, 2024, Longkumer said these went against secularism as enshrined in the Constitution of India.

The BJP said the NDPP candidate lost due to the anti-incumbency factor in the state and not for any other reason. The BJP criticised two MLAs of the NDPP for holding it responsible for Murry's defeat.

"They are blaming us for the defeat of their candidate which is unwarranted and uncalled for. The BJP did not contest the polls. It supported the NDPP candidate. They are putting the blame on us by playing the religion card but it was not an issue in the polls," BJP legislator Imkong L Imchen said.

The BJP has a consistent policy and it stands by its alliance and words. "We could have easily formed the government with the NPF (Naga People's Front) in 2018 as we had 38 of the 60 MLAs but we stood by our pre-poll commitment to the NDPP," Imchen said.

On the ULB polls, he said the agreement ahead of Lok Sabha elections was that the NDPP will contest only in areas where it has MLAs and the BJP will extend support, and similarly, the BJP will contest in the areas where it has MLAs and the NDPP will extend support. "But they have now grossly violated this agreement," Imchen said.

Cattle pose threat to big cats in Palamu reserve

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

USUALLY, it's the cattle in villages around forests and wildlife reserves that face a threat from the wild animals. But, in Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR), it's the reverse. Spread over 1,130 sq km, the reserve has emerged as an easily accessible grazing ground for the cattle from Jharkhand, Bihar and Chhattisgarh.

In fact, the cattle of the 398 villages in and around PTR — 191 inside the reserves and 207 on its peripheries — has virtually taken over the reserve. This has meant diminishing food for the reserve's animals, which is affecting their health and population as well.

According to PTR officials, about four lakh cattle stray into the reserve in search of fodder affecting the habitat and ecosystem of tigers. Preventing them from straying into the forest comes as a big challenge for the authorities.

Considering the threat posed by cattle to the wildlife in PTR, Azolla cultivation will be promoted among the villagers because the cattle encroachment has been increasing in the reserve's core area, too.

PTR Deputy Director Prajesh Kant Jena said that Azolla can be produced round- the-year as heat does not have much effect on it. Therefore, the authorities are planning to use Azolla cultivation to stop cattle entering into the forest area.

"Since, the climate here is quite suitable for the cultivation of Azolla, which also has a very high protein value, it will be promoted among the villages near PTR so that their cattle do not have to stray into the jungles for grazing. Being rich in protein, Azolla has also been found to improve milk production in the cattle by up to 40%," said Jena.

Initially, the project will be launched in 10-12 villages falling near Betla National Forest, and will be expanded all over the PTR later looking at its success, he added. According to Jena, Azolla is a fast growing aquatic floating fern which grows within two days for serving the cattle. Besides providing a high protein fodder for the cattle, high value vermin-compost could also be prepared with their dung, he said.

Jena, however, admitted that it will be a great challenge for the forest officials to convince villagers to adopt the cultivation of Azolla. Latehar district administration, however, is planning to provide Azolla seeds to the villagers through DMFT funds. Villagers will be given proper training for the cultivation of Azolla so that it becomes easier for them to adopt it.

Meanwhile, decks have finally been cleared for shifting of 360 herbivorous animals from Ranchi Zoo to the four Soft Release Centers set up in the PTR. According to the authorities, approval for the same has been granted by National Zoo Authority and shifting of animals will be done very soon.

Notably, PTR authorities have set up four soft release centers to ensure enough food for tigers, which will help in increasing their numbers in the reserve.

> **Since, the climate here is quite suitable for the cultivation of Azolla, which is high in protein, it will be promoted among the villages near PTR to prevent the cattle from straying into the jungles for grazing**
>
> Prajesh Kant Jena, PTR Deputy Director

Two senior officials removed over cow slaughter reports in MP town

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

THE collector and police superintendent of Madhya Pradesh's tribal-dominated Seoni district have been removed after recovery of over 50 slaughtered cows, officials said.

In a late-night action on Saturday, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav ordered the removal of district collector Kshitij Singhal and SP Rakesh Singh. Sanskriti Jain and Sunil Kumar Mehta have been appointed as the new collector and SP.

CM Yadav has also directed ADG-CID Pawan Srivastava at the state police headquarters to probe the incident, in which five locals have been arrested. The National Security Act (NSA) has been invoked against two of the arrested individuals, police said.

The incident came to light when 54 cow carcasses with severed heads and limbs were found in two locations — near the Wainganga river in Dhanora and in Kakartala forests —on Wednesday evening. After the discovery, right-wing Hindu groups enforced a shutdown in the town. Police teams from Seoni have been dispatched to Nagpur in Maharashtra to apprehend the masterminds behind the inter-state cow smuggling racket, officials said.

Seoni and its adjoining districts, including Balaghat and Betul, are considered hotspots of cow smuggling and illegal slaughter. Recent statistics from the MP police headquarters reveal that over 7,000 cattle being smuggled or transported illegally have been rescued across the state, with more than 1,000 people arrested in the last six months.

Since the beginning of Mohan Yadav's tenure, over 500 cases of cow smuggling and slaughter have been registered, with Seoni district accounting for 55 cases and 99 arrests.

A former police officer said, "About 70% of the cattle are smuggled from UP and Rajasthan to Nagpur and Hyderabad through these districts, with only 30% involving local smugglers." In May 2022, two men from the Gond tribe were lynched by cow vigilantes after cow meat was found in their possession in Kurai of Seoni district. The Yadav government is observing the current Hindu new year as Cow Protection Year.

The police had cracked down on alleged cow slaughter ahead of Eid-Al-Adha festival, recently raiding Bhainswahi village of tribal dominated Mandla district and seizure of around 100 kg "beef" from 11 houses of minority community. All the eleven houses which were allegedly built illegally on government land were demolished subsequently by the local administration and police.

1 dead, 2 missing

After massive thunderstorms and rainfall in the southeast of Switzerland caused a rockslide

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	33	20	SNY	Los Angeles	31	19	SNY
Colombo	30	27	LR	Melbourne	12	5	SNY
Dhaka	34	28	SNY	Moscow	21	12	SNY
Dubai	39	34	SNY	New York	28	20	SNY
Houston	35	26	SNY	Singapore	32	27	SNY
Istanbul	29	22	SNY	Toronto	26	16	SNY
London	25	15	LC	Washington	22	13	LC

Ukrainian drone strike in Crimea kills 2 children, injures 124 others

Fresh Russian attack on Kharkiv kills one person, five wounded, according to local officials

MOSCOW

A Ukrainian missile attack Sunday on a city in the Russian-annexed Crimea peninsula killed three people, including two children, and wounded over 100, officials said.

Fragments hit beachgoers in Sevastopol after at least one missile was intercepted by air defences and exploded in the air, according to officials.

Sevastopol governor Mikhail Razvozhayev wrote on Telegram that two children and one adult had died. A Russian health ministry official told RIA Novosti news agency that 124 people were injured, including 27 children.

Sevastopol, a Black Sea port city and naval base on the Crimean peninsula annexed by Russia in 2014, regularly comes under fire from Ukraine but Sunday's attack was unusually deadly. Razvozhayev said the attack hit Uchkuyevka, an area with sandy beaches and hotels. Videos posted on social media showed people running from the beach as explosions go off and people in swimming outfits carrying a stretcher. A local news channel on *Telegram*, ChP Sevastopol, cited witnesses as saying that an elderly woman was killed as she swam in the sea.

The investigative committee, which probes major crimes, said it was opening an investigation into "a terrorist act".

The governor said Ukraine had launched five missiles which Russian air defences intercepted over the sea but fragments fell onto the shore area and shrapnel wounded people.

Razvozhayev said missile fragments hit beach areas in the north of the city and set fire to a house and woodland.

A Russian defence ministry statement said Ukraine committed a "terrorist attack on the civilian infrastructure of Sevastopol with US-supplied ATACMS tactical missiles loaded with cluster warheads". The ministry said four missiles were downed and a fifth changed trajectory after being intercepted "with its warhead exploding in the air over the city". Ukraine's military has not commented on the attack, which came a day after a Russian guided bomb strike on the city of Kharkiv hit an apartment building, killing two people and injuring more than 50. On Sunday, another Russian strike hit a house in the city, killing one and injuring five, regional governor Oleg Synegubov said. Kharkiv mayor Igor Terekhov said three people were wounded by a separate strike on a children's educational facility. *AFP*

A rescue worker with a dog search for victims in a damaged apartment building was hit by Russian air bomb in Kharkiv | AP

Russia blames Washington for attack on Crimea

Russia's defence ministry said Sunday that Washington bears responsibility for a deadly attack on Moscow-annexed Crimea by Ukraine, which it says used US missiles. "The responsibility for a deliberate missile strike on peaceful residents of Sevastopol is carried primarily by Washington, which supplied this weaponry to Ukraine," the ministry wrote on Telegram, saying Ukraine used ATACMS missiles. *AFP*

ASIA MATTERS

SINGAPORE

POPE VISIT: CHURCH WARNS OF PHISHING

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore has reminded those keen on attending Pope Francis' mass in Singapore that WhatsApp or other instant messaging apps will not be used in general ticketing or balloting processes. It said it has received reports of Catholics having their WhatsApp accounts taken over by scammers who claimed to be helping them with the papal mass ticket registration process. Pope visits from Sept 11 to 13, and will celebrate mass on Sept 12, *The Straits Times* reported. More than 40,000 tickets will be available to the public in the online ballot.

MALAYSIA

SEVERED HAND FOUND

Police said that a severed hand found near a burning car in front of Hospital Bahagia Ulu Kinta was likely from a fight where three men were ambushed by 20 assailants, *The Star* reported. Ipoh district police chief ACP Abang Zainal Abidin Abang Ahmad said a report on the fight was received detailing the severe injuries sustained by locals.

INDONESIA

CLERIC WANTS BAN ON UFC FOR VIOLENCE

An Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) official announced on Sunday that the US mixed martial arts show Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) is haram and urged the government to ban it from local TV networks. UFC is considered haram because it promotes fights that inflict physical harm on participants, said Badriyah Fayumi, deputy secretary-general of the MUI, *Jakarta Globe* reported. "Cock fighting is haram, let alone human fighting. Why? Because it inflicts wounds on participants and their opponents. He said such shows have a damaging impact on children.

Israeli def minister in US for talks on Gaza war, Lebanon

GAZA

ISRAEL's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant was headed to Washington on Sunday for "critical" talks on the Gaza war raging since October 7 and surging cross-border tensions with Lebanon's Hezbollah movement.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu voiced hope for speedy progress on unfreezing US arms and ammunition deliveries from Israel's top ally which he said had dropped off sharply in recent months. US President Joe Biden has been at odds with Israel's veteran right-wing leader over Gaza's surging civilian death toll, but US officials have said they were not aware of what Netanyahu was referring to on the arms issue.

Yoav Gallant

The Israeli premier on Sunday told his cabinet that "about four months ago, there was a dramatic drop in the supply of armaments arriving from the US to Israel. We got all sorts of explanations, but... the basic situation didn't change."

However, he voiced hope the issue would now be cleared up: "In light of what I have heard in the last day, I hope and believe that this issue will be resolved in the near future."

Israeli forces again bombed Gaza on Sunday, a day after tens of thousands staged a protest rally in Tel Aviv against the government and to demand the return of hostages being held by Hamas.

Tensions have also flared on Israel's northern border with Lebanon whose Iran-backed Hezbollah movement has traded daily cross-border fire with the army, heightening fears of all-out war.

Gallant said he would "discuss developments in Gaza and Lebanon", vowing that "we are prepared for any action that may be required in Gaza, Lebanon and in additional areas".

He stressed that "our ties with the United States are more important than ever. Our meetings with US officials are critical to this war."

In Gaza, Israeli forces kept striking targets and battling Hamas in a war that has devastated much of the coastal territory.

Warplanes had struck "dozens of terror targets throughout the Gaza Strip, including military structures, terrorists and terrorist infrastructure" over the past 24 hours, a military statement said. *AFP*

WAR WATCH

ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 261

TOLL SO FAR **39,290**

Hezbollah targets two barracks in North Israel

Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group said it had targeted two military positions in northern Israel with an armed drone in response to the killing of an Islamist commander. The announcement came hours after it published a video excerpt purporting to show locations in Israel along with coordinates, amid heightening fears of an all-out conflict between the two.

Drone attack likely by Houthi rebels

An aerial drone likely launched by Yemen's Houthi rebels struck and damaged a vessel in the Red Sea on Sunday, officials said. The drone attack happened around dawn off the coast of the rebel-held port city of Hodeida, UK MTO center said. It said the vessel sustained damage but mariners on board were safe.

STATE SUBSIDIES

EU, China trade chiefs open talks over tariffs for electric cars

BRUSSELS

EU and China trade chiefs held "candid and constructive" talks on Saturday over plans from Brussels to ramp up tariffs on Chinese electric cars, and the two sides will hold further consultations, the EU said.

The European Union warned this month that it would slap additional tariffs of up to 38% on Chinese electric car imports from July after an anti-subsidy probe, in a move that risks provoking a bitter trade war.

An EU spokesman said European trade commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis and China's Commerce Minister Wang Wentao "had a candid and constructive call on Saturday on the EU's anti-subsidy investigation into battery electric vehicles produced in China".

"The EU side emphasised that any negotiated outcome to its investigation must be effective in addressing the injurious subsidisation," spokesman Olof Gill said.

"The two sides will continue to engage at all levels in the coming weeks."

China's commerce ministry wrote on X that the two sides "agreed to start consultations" during the call.

Brussels angered Beijing by launching the investigation last year in a bid to defend European manufacturers in the face of a surge of cheaper Chinese imports.

The European Commission has now proposed a provisional hike of tariffs on Chinese manufacturers: 17.4% for market major BYD, 20% for Geely and 38.1% for SAIC.

The EU said the amount depended on the level of state subsidies received by the firms.

Electric car producers in China that cooperated with the EU will face a tariff of 21%, while those that did not cooperate would be subject to a 38.1% duty. This would be on top of the current import duty of 10%. The tariffs would apply provisionally from July 4 and then definitively from Nov.

The EU tariffs, while high, are lower than the 100-percent rate the United States imposed from last month on Chinese electric cars. Europe's automotive sector is the jewel in its industrial crown. *AFP*

Power outage leads to flight cancellation in UK

LONDON

FLIGHTS at the UK's third-busiest airport were being delayed or cancelled on Sunday after a major power cut, the airport operator said.

The Manchester Airports Group, which also operates London Stansted and the East Midlands airports, said Manchester Airport had been "affected by a major power cut in the area earlier this morning."

Power has now been restored at the international airport in the north of England, but passengers due to travel from Terminals One and Two were told to "not come to the airport" as all flights were cancelled "until further notice".

Passengers for Terminal Three were told to come to the airport as normal, but were warned they "could be affected by delays".

The airport operator said that while passengers already checked in were scheduled to depart as planned, the disruption meant "some baggage may not be on those flights".

The airline Jet2 – which operates from both terminals – said that as well as cancelling dozens of flights, it was unable to load bags onto planes as the airport's baggage system remained "inoperable".

Airline easyJet, which operates flights from Terminal One, warned of "very long queues" for security, and said passengers could only board flights with cabin bags.

In addition, some arriving flights were being diverted to other airports according to the airport statement. *AFP*

EXPRESS READ

Philippines says it won't back down after clash

Manila: The president of the Philippines said on Sunday his country would not yield to 'any foreign power' after Chinese forces injured Filipino navy personnel and damaged at least two military boats with machetes, axes and hammers in a clash in the disputed South China Sea, but added the Philippines would never instigate a war. *AP*

8 killed in landslide in central China after rain

Beijing: A landslide in a mountainous area of central China has left eight people dead, state media said on Sunday, as parts of the country were placed on high alert for bad weather. Heavy rain caused a deadly landslide in a village in Hunan province, according to state broadcaster CCTV. Four houses collapsed and all eight missing people "have been found with no vital signs", the channel said. *AFP*

US aircraft carrier arrives in South Korea after Russia-North Korea pact

SEOUL

A nuclear-powered US aircraft carrier arrived on Saturday in South Korea for a three-way exercise involving Japan as they step up military training to cope with North Korean threats, which have escalated following a security pact with Russia. The arrival of the USS Theodore Roosevelt strike group in Busan came a day after South Korea summoned the Russian ambassador to protest a major deal between Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un this week.

The agreement pledges mutual defence assistance in the event of war. South Korea says the deal poses a threat to its security and warned that it could consider sending arms to Ukraine to help fight off the Russian invasion as a response — a move that would surely ruin its relations with Moscow. Following a meeting between their defence chiefs in Singapore earlier in June, the United States, South Korea and Japan announced the Freedom Edge drills. The Roosevelt strike group will participate in the exercise that is expected to start within June.

South Korea's military didn't immediately confirm specific details of the training.

Rear Admiral. Christopher Alexander, commander of Carrier Strike Group Nine, said the exercise is aimed at sharpening tactical proficiency of ships and improving interoperability between the countries' navies "to ensure we are ready to respond to any crisis and contingency."

South Korea's navy said in a statement that the arrival of the carrier demonstrates the strong defence posture of the allies and "stern willingness to respond to advancing North Korean threats." The carrier's visit comes seven months after another US aircraft carrier, the USS Carl Vinson, came to South Korea in a show of strength against the North.

Following completion of the exercise, the Roosevelt strike group will leave for the Middle East to "continue promoting regional stability, deter aggression, and protect the free flow of commerce in the region," Pentagon spokesperson Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said in a statement. *AP*

The Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier is anchored in Busan, South Korea, on Saturday | AP

MAY PROTEST REACTION

Paramilitary force to be deployed in PoK for 3 months, Pakistan orders

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN on Sunday approved the deployment of paramilitary force Frontier Constabulary in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), which was recently rocked by protests killing several people.

As many as six platoons of the paramilitary force will be deployed in the region for three months, *Geo News* reported. The decision to deploy the Frontier Constabulary comes a day after Pakistan announced to launch a major new operation against terrorism with a renewed commitment.

The protests, against inflation and high electricity prices, were led by the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) and had traders at the forefront in most parts of the region.

"The development came after the 'prime minister' of the disputed region Chaudhry Anwarul Haq met with Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi," *Geo News* reported. During the meeting, the two leaders reportedly discussed the law and order situation, the prevailing political landscape, as well as the disputed region's budget for the next fiscal year.

As many as six platoons of the Frontier Constabulary will be deployed in the region for three months and would provide fool-proof security for Neelum-Jhelum, Mangla and Gulpur hydro-power projects, apart from assisting the police.

Multiple people, including a policeman, died and dozens were injured during the four-day protests in mid-May that rocked PoK as protesters sought the provision of electricity as per hydropower generation cost in the region, subsidised wheat flour and an end to the privileges of the elite class. The protests and the deteriorating law and order situation had prompted the PoK government to call in Pakistan Rangers to control the situation then. *PTI*

Police arrest 23 people for mob lynching in Pak

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN police have arrested more than 20 people for involvement in the lynching of a tourist in the picturesque town of Swat for allegedly desecrating the Quran, media reports said here on Sunday.

Muhammad Ismail, a 40-year-old resident of Sialkot in Punjab province, was gunned down by an enraged mob which dragged him through the town and later hanged him in full public view in Madyan tehsil of Swat district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Thursday. The mob had also set the Madyan police station ablaze.

Ismail was accused of having burnt the pages of Islam's holy book. Five police personnel and 11 locals were injured in the incident. Police arrested 23 people in Ismail's lynching and the arson attack on the Madyan police station, *Geo News* reported. Those arrested were shifted to an undisclosed location while efforts were underway to arrest others involved in the incident, police said.

Members of the mob had been identified, and "efforts for their arrest are underway,' the report said, quoting Swat Police Syed Zaman Shah. *PTI*

Irdai bans ads hawking Ulips as pure investment products

Unit-linked insurance plans are hybrid products which allow investors to create wealth over long term as well as have an insurance cover

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @Mumbai

FINALLY, mis-selling of financial products, mostly life insurance products led by unit-linked insurance policies or Ulips, which lead the mis-selling bandwagon ever since the industry was born, may ebb, forget ending it as such, with the regulator Irdai over the weekend ordering life insurers to nearly end advertising Ulips, one of the biggest asset classes in the stock markets as investment products.

In fact, one of the primary goals of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Irdai) ever since its establishment in 1999, has been to stop the mis-selling of Ulip, which is a combination of an insurance policy and an investment product. In fact, if compared, the incidences of misspelling of Ulips/life insurance policies and mutual funds, the latter is a pale shadow of the former with the number of complaints against Ulips misselling being almost 99.9:01. The next in line are credit card issuers and banks.

The regulatory crackdown comes after it has been repeatedly found that insurers have been hawking Ulips as a pure investment product and are coming out with misleading advertisements to vouch for this. The regulator, while prohibiting insurers from advertising Ulips as investment products, said these are hybrid financial products that combine insurance and investment.

"An advertisement on the unit linked insurance product, index linked product and annuity products with variable annuity pay-out option shall contain adequate, accurate, explicit and updated information, in simple language," says the Irdai master circular issued over the weekend.

The circular has also asked insurers "to form an advertisement committee, which is approved by their respective boards, and appoint a senior-level officer of the distributor channel to examine and approve advertisements to ensure that the advertisements are true and not misleading."

Ulip ads "must contain adequate, accurate, explicit, and updated information, presented in simple language". According to the Irdai, all ads for participating insurance policies must disclose the following risk factors: the projected bonus is not guaranteed; past performance does not indicate future bonuses; these products are subject to the insurer's overall performance in terms of investments, management of expenses, mortality, and lapses.

FIXING
MIS-SELLING
Irdai bars insurers from advertising unit-linked policies as investment products
Regulator says ads for participating insurance policies must disclose that past performance does not indicate future bonuses
Ulips are mis-sold primarily because most sales personnel are not trained to handle a complex product
Another common form of mis-selling is selling Ulips as one-time investment products
Since LIC's listing in May 2022, the share of par policies has come down to around 83% as of MARCH 2024
With a Ulip, one can choose the quantum of investment
Insurers have been asked to form an advertisement committee and appoint a senior-level officer of the distributor channel to examine and approve ads

Why is mis-selling rampant?

So, what do we understand by mis-selling of Ulips and why is mis-selling in this space so rampant? According to an analyst at Motilal Oswal, Ulips are mis-sold primarily for three reasons. First, most sales personnel are not trained to handle a complex product like Ulips, which is nothing but a hybrid life policy. Most of them have been selling plain vanilla products till the time LIC dominated the market but the arrival of private life players has seen the market dynamics changing radically.

As a result, traditional life policy agents are unable to understand a hybrid like Ulips. LIC used to have over 90% of its products as participating policies or par policies also known as with-profit policy, which entitles a policyholder a share of the profit of the insurer in the form of bonuses or dividends. But since its listing in May 2022, the share of par policies has come down to around 83% as of March 2024. On the contrary, private life players have mostly non-participatory or non-par products which do not offer profits/dividends to policyholders. As opposed to a non-par plan, which offers guaranteed and fixed benefits, a par plan offers no guaranteed benefits and the returns depend on the profits of the company and therefore future bonuses can never be guaranteed. This is also the reason why non-par products carry a relatively lower premium rate. Secondly, banks are now permitted to sell insurance under the open architecture model wherein they can sell as many as insurers' products as they want to, creating competitive pressures with sales targets, leading to misselling. The third reason is the lack of proper investor education by insurers.

Ulips and MFs

The main difference between a Ulip and MFs is that Ulip is a type of insurance plan providing insurance coverage to the policyholder offering triple benefits such as investment return, insurance cover and tax benefits while a mutual fund is purely an investment product and does not have any insurance cost embedded in it nor offers n insurance cover.

Economics of mis-selling

But the economics of mis-selling is that it is not just competition or lack of awareness that breeds mis-selling, nor the if-I-won't-do-it-someone-else-will-do-it-approach, but it's the encouragement agents get from their employers that emboldens them to mis-sell because it's a part and parcel of working in the financial services sector. According to industry analysts, the main reason for mis-selling in Ulips is because this is sold as an alternative to mutual funds and this in fact is the primary method of mis-selling. Because when you sell Ulips as MFs, people tend to believe the returns on a Ulip can happen as fast as in mutual funds.

What is the way out?

All this berating does not mean Ulips are bad products but good products sold badly. Ulips can still thrive given the tax benefits it offer but the challenge of course is to prevent them from being mis-sold. If one were to appreciate a financially literate salesperson of financial products, the prospective customers also need to be financially literate. But unfortunately the twains don't always meet. In fact, they rarely meet. Which is why it is easier to just mis-sell an investment scheme.

MONEY MATTERS

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

HOW TO NAVIGATE THE BOOM IN PRIMARY EQUITY MARKET

THE primary market is booming. In the financial year that ended March 2024, equity funds raised through initial public offerings or IPOs rose 22.7% to ₹65,995 crore, according to data from the National Stock Exchange. In addition, shares offered through rights, preferential allotment and qualified institutional placement registered a growth of 22% to ₹1.2 lakh crore.

That included new listings like Ixigo and follow-on offers from Vodafone Idea. If you seek long-term wealth creation to invest in companies that have achieved a critical mass and are set for future growth, you may consider applying for quality companies. The challenge is to identify the right quality.

There is a plethora of information thrown at you. Companies put up a draft red herring prospectus months before going public. You need to understand the connection between multiple pointers that make up a public offering of shares.

For example, Hyundai India, the second largest car company in India by sales after Maruti Suzuki, is making an offer for sale. Hyundai Motor Company, the Korean parent, is offering shares to Indian investors and raising money for global operations. The money you invest through this offer is not getting into the company. The Indian operation of Hyundai is profitable and does not require any funding from you. You may wonder what the purpose is and what it means to your investment.

The Korean parent has incubated the Indian business and taken the risk of entering the Indian market. They have fought to the second position in a highly competitive market. Unlike the US and other rich countries, Indian consumers prefer low-priced, high-performance vehicles.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

The market for luxury and high-end vehicles is relatively small. However, in the entry-level auto segment, there is a pent-up demand in urban and rural India. However, the intensity of competition from Maruti Suzuki, the market leader, Tata Motors, and other car makers is formidable. The company lists the competitive nature of the market as a risk factor.

Similarly, the company also imports auto components, and as the demand for cars moves from fossil fuel to electric vehicles, those imports are likely to increase. That is also a risk factor in the operation of the Indian subsidiary. You may want to read all the 81 risk factors before you put up your application for the IPO. You may also want to look at how other listed companies in the sector are trading. A key factor is the price-earnings multiple.

You may want to ensure that the price you are paying aligns with the market position of Hyundai's India business. There is a detailed comparison with the financials of companies like Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors, and Mahindra. You must read and understand the implication of the IPO price on the valuation.

The unlisted space

Many companies are trading in the unlisted market space. It is also called the 'grey market'. It is not illegal to own shares in the unlisted space. However, India's Securities and Exchange Board does not regulate that market. The Sebi jurisdiction covers the listed space in equity and bonds. As a result, disclosure of information is inadequate in the unlisted space. You must rely on the company information circulated by other investors over social media. It is a hazardous space to navigate if you are new to investing and have a limited understanding of company financials.

The latest data from the NSE monthly bulletin for May 2024 shows that new investor registration surged in the North of India. The North region went past the dominant West region. The increased participation in equity markets is a good sign. However, the risks associated with investing must be understood clearly.

A good financial advisor will help you connect the dots. You need to list companies you would like to look at from the IPO investment standpoint. Evaluate prospects with your financial advisor. You must keep an open mind towards learning and gathering knowledge to invest successfully. That is irrespective of whether you have a finance background or not.

MONEY-WISE

TURNING THE SPOTLIGHT ON LARGE CAP FUNDS

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com
(Views expressed here are personal)

HAVING commenced a discussion on the definition and scope of Large Cap Funds in the last column, let us now turn the Spotlight on some of the funds in this space with relatively larger Assets under Management (AUM).

These Large Cap funds include, Axis Bluechip Fund, Mirae Asset Large Cap Fund, ICICI Prudential Bluechip Fund, HDFC Top 100 Fund, SBI Bluechip Fund and Aditya Birla Sun Life Frontline Equity Fund.

Axis Bluechip Fund has an AUM of ₹32,708 crore. It holds 95% in Equity and the remainder in Debt instruments and Cash Holding.

Its primary portfolio holdings are in the Financial Services, Automobiles and Auto Components and Consumer Services industries. This fund has delivered CAGR returns of 11.4% over 3 years and 14.2% over 5 years. Mirae Asset Large Cap Fund has an AUM of ₹37,631 crore. It holds 99% in Equity and 1% in Cash & Cash Equivalents.

Its primary portfolio holdings are in the Banks, IT-Software and Petroleum Products industries. This fund has delivered CAGR returns of 15.1% over 3 years and 16.5% over 5 years. ICICI Prudential Bluechip Fund has an AUM of ₹55,459 crore. It holds 94% in Equity and 6% in Debt instruments and Cash Holding.

Its primary portfolio holdings are in the Financial Services, Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels and Automobile and Auto Components industries. This fund has delivered CAGR returns of 20.9% over 3 years and 18.9% over 5 years.

SBI Bluechip Fund has an AUM of ₹46,085 crore. It holds 95% in Equity and 5% in Debt instruments and Cash Holding. Its primary portfolio holdings are in the Financial Services, Automobile and Auto Components and Fast Moving Consumer Goods industries. This fund has delivered CAGR returns of 16.7% over 3 years and 16.8% over 5 years. HDFC Top 100 Fund has an AUM of ₹33,488 crore. It holds 99% in Equity and has a Cash Holding of 1%. Its primary portfolio holdings are in the Banks, IT-Software and Construction industries. This fund has delivered CAGR returns of 20.4% over 3 years and 16.5% over 5 years.

ABSL Frontline Equity Fund has an AUM of ₹27,275 crore. It holds 99% in Equity, 1% in Debt instruments and Cash Holding. Its primary portfolio holdings are in the Financial, Energy and Automobile industries. This fund has delivered CAGR returns of 17.7% over 3 years and 17.1% over 5 years.

An argument against the Large Cap category of funds is that this is one space where passive funds (Index Funds) will outperform their active counterparts.

Perhaps so, but it is always better to have a broader and longer data canvas before concluding emphatically. And to my mind, that also depends on whether the data canvas primarily comprises bull or bear market data.

GST on corporate guarantees: Centre to issue clarification

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

DURING its 53rd meeting, the GST Council recommended a retrospective amendment of Rule 28(2) of the CGST Rules, which deals with the valuation of services involving corporate guarantees provided between related parties, with effect from October 26, 2023.

The recommendation specifies that the valuation under Rule 28(2) of the CGST Rules will not be applicable in cases of exporting such services or when the recipient is eligible for full input tax credit.

The central board of indirect taxes and customs(CBIC) will come out with the circular to clarify various issues regarding valuation of services of providing corporate guarantees between related parties, a government official told this paper. The official declined to disclose the details. TNIE spoke with experts to understand their expectations regarding the clarifications they are seeking from the government. According to Pratik Jain, Partner with PwC India, in sectors like power, real estate, and roads, where input tax credit is not available, there are some unclear points regarding the application of GST on corporate guarantees. Questions arise about whether the GST will be charged as a one-time fee or on a recurring basis. Recurring levy will potentially increase costs for these sectors, he pointed out. "It is also uncertain whether the GST will be based on the amount of the guarantee provided or the amount actually utilized. Additionally, there is a query about whether companies can pay tax based on the actual contract amount, which may be less than 1% in some cases," he said.

"Moreover, there is ambiguity regarding the implications for the period before October 23 in sectors without input tax credit, where the value may be less than 1%. Lastly, there is a question about whether different approaches can be taken for a company facing blocked input tax credit in one state (exempt from Rule 28) compared to others," he added. Meanwhile, Abhishek Rastogi, who is a founder of Rastogi Chambers highlighted the issue of tax cascading due to the applicability of GST on corporate guarantee.

'It's all done', Anil Agarwal on demerger

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

VEDANTA Group chairman Anil Agarwal exuded confidence on the successful demerger of the group. "It's all done, we have got the majority of lender approval... by the end of this fiscal year we could have the unit separated into six listed entities of the Vedanta group," he said. On the steel business, he recently said Vedanta is in advanced negotiations with potential buyers for its steel asset in Jharkhand.

The company is targeting a valuation of $1.2 billion per million tons for its 3.5 million-ton steel plant, leveraging the asset's strategic location and the significant demand-supply gap in India's steel market. Regarding the zinc business, Agarwal highlighted the potential for significant growth, stating, "We are the only major producer of zinc in the world... Hindustan Zinc can be a $100 billion company."

Selling triggers: Mkts may trade sideways this week

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AFTER two weeks of strong gains, India's equity market entered into a consolidation last week with the benchmark indices - BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty- barely managing to keep the momentum alive.

With no major trigger to support the rally seen after the formation of a coalition government and the RBI keeping the key interest rates unchanged, investors would now track macroeconomic developments and global cues for future guidance.

"The market is expected to trade sideways next week due to the absence of strong buying or selling triggers. While the underlying sentiment remains bullish, dips might attract opportunistic buying, which could support the market. However, strong rallies may be capped by profit booking," said Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst at Swastika Investmart. Gour added that this

week, sector-specific movements are anticipated amid budget-related buzz. "Key factors to watch include the progress of the monsoon, which will be closely monitored for its near-term impact on investor confidence. The upcoming GST meeting may result in rate adjustments in certain sectors, potentially influencing market direction. Investors will also keep a close eye on FII and DII fund flows, as well as crude oil prices, to gauge overall sentiment," he said. The Sensex and Nifty indices both posted minor gains of 0.2% last week, marking their third consecutive week of growth.

Canara Bank's X account 'compromised'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

Public sector lender Canara Bank on Sunday said that its account on social media platform X has been "compromised". "Canara Bank would like to inform all concerned that the bank's official X (formerly Twitter) account has been compromised.

All concerned teams are investigating the matter and working closely with X to regain access to Canara Bank X handle at the earliest," the bank said in a statement.

It added, "We urge users not to post anything on our X page. We will inform immediately when it is restored and working in Canara Bank controls."

Earlier in a similar cyber attack, Axis Bank's support handle on X was hacked on June 17. In a post, Axis Bank had responded: "We are investigating the possible hack of the bank's support handle."

NADA suspends Bajrang again, serves him 'notice of charge'

The National Anti-Doping Agency on Sunday suspended Bajrang Punia for a second time, three weeks after its Anti-Disciplinary Doping (ADDP) panel had revoked his suspension on the grounds that NADA had not issued a "notice of charge" to the wrestler. NADA had on April 23 suspended him for refusal to give his urine sample for dope test.

The key contest in the marquee clash will be between Head-Warner duo and the Indian pacer in the powerplay

Desperate Oz up against Bumrah, India's enforcer

GOMESH S @ Chennai

THE day is here. After almost three weeks of roller-coaster, the T20 World Cup has reached a stage where every match from here on is a virtual knockout for one team or another. On Monday, it will be Australia, the holders of the ODI WC and World Test Championship titles, who face the heat when they face India. A loss here could be curtains for the 2021 T20 WC champions.

When Josh Hazlewood made that tongue-in-cheek comment about keeping England out of the Super 8s, little did he or his teammates, would have thought they would be in such a position, despite losing just one game so far. But the loss came when it mattered the most; against a rejuvenated Afghanistan. The Rashid Khan-led side, who, should Australia lose, can advance to a global event semifinal for the first time in history if they beat Banglades. But before all that remains the big clash.

Australia vs India. A repeat of the 2023 ODI WC final. The wounds are still fresh for Indian fans, and possibly some of the players too, but this is a different format. India have been on a roll despite not having a single batter dominating the proceedings. In fact, the top three have just one fifty to show, but it is a good thing for India. In the past, they have scored fifties but barely posted above-par totals and ended up losing the crucial matches. 2021 vs Pakistan. 2022 semifinal vs England. So on and so forth. This time, however, they have batted with intent through and through. But that is not the reason for their unbeaten run. It is the bowling. To filter down further, you can just write one name. Jasprit Bumrah. Among bowlers with minimum 15 overs, Bumrah has the best average (6.5) and best economy (3.42). He has taken ten wickets in five matches, collected two Player of the Match awards and has been the driving force behind India's success so far. But no such accolade does justice to the impact he has had in the tournament. To put it into context, Bumrah has taken as many as twice the number of wickets (10) as he has conceded in boundaries (four 4s & a 6).

Now, Australia have faced the India pacer in the past — twice during the last ODI WC — and even got across the line in the summit clash despite the early threat he posed. It was Travis Head who turned the day around on that particular night in Ahmedabad. Barring the lone fifty against Scotland, Head has been on a poor run, but against India one could never rule him out. However, standing in front of Head and David Warner when Australia take the field on Monday will be Bumrah. As much as it is well established that Bumrah is an all-format giant, in the shortest format, he becomes a different beast. In the middle of a horror season for Mumbai Indians, Bumrah was going at almost run-a-ball at a time when teams were scoring 250s for fun. In this T20 WC, his economy is lower than what it was during the ODI WC. And that in itself sums it up. The question that remains is whether or not Australia can step up against Bumrah. And that is the end game.

Jordan, Buttler put Eng in semis

BRIDGETOWN: Chris Jordan took a hat-trick to dismiss United States of America for 115 before England openers Jos Buttler (83 not out from 38 balls) and Phil Salt (25 n.o) chased down the target in 9.4 overs. With the win, England go on top of the Group 2 table, confiming their qualification for the semifinals.
Brief scores: USA: 115 in 18.5 ovs (Nitish Kumar 30; Jordan 4/10, Rashid 2/13, Curran 2/23) **lost to** England 117/ in 9.4 ovs (Buttler 83 n.o, Salt 25 n.o).

HIGH-STAKE CLASHES

Australia need a win against India, same is the case for Afghanistan versus Bangladesh. A look...

CAN AUSTRALIA REGROUP?

After the defeat against Afghanistan, Australia have little time for a turnaround and they are up against unbeaten India. Their previous WC encounter, albeit in a different format, was the final last November. A side with scars and the other with the need for quick turnaround. Who will come out on top?

CHANCE FOR AFGHANISTAN

Having come close in the ODI WC, Afghanistan have a realistic chance of making the semifinals. All they need to do is pray for an Indian win and then beat Bangladesh later in the evening. The good thing for them is that they will know exactly what's required to get into the semis before taking the field.

Today's games
India vs Australia, Gros Islet, 8 PM
Afghanistan vs Bangladesh, Kingstown, 6 AM (Tuesday)
Live on Star Sports and Hotstar

Keep politics away from sports: ACB CEO after historic return

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

Afghanistan pulled off a massive win over Australia on Saturday | AFP

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP WEST INDIES & USA 2024 JUNE 1-29 — AMERICAN EXPEDITION

THEY had come agonisingly close not once but twice to beat the mighty Australians only to falter at the last hurdle. Be it the 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia or the 2023 ODI World Cup in India, it was a tale of 'so close, yet so far' for Afghanistan. All that changed on Saturday, June 22 — incidentally exactly seven years after the country was accorded full member status by the ICC — when Rashid Khan-led side finally posted a 21-run win over Aussies in a Super 8s match in Kingstown, St Vincent.

Despite them being one of the most-improved sides in world cricket, the win over the 2021 T20 WC champs was termed as an upset result. No longer underdogs, Afghanistan have consistently been coming up with performances that make everyone sit up and take notice. What makes their contests against heavyweights Australia spicy is the recent history they share. Cricket Australia (CA) had postponed a three-match T20I bilateral series against Afghanistan last year and hoped to hold it in August this year only to announce the deferment again. Earlier, the CA had also postponed the hosting of a one-off Test. The reason was a deterioration in human rights for women and girls in Afghanistan.

The issue was the talking point during the ODI World Cup and the same was being talked about again this time ahead of the latest tie. The only difference, however, will now be the Afghanistan triumph — their first in any international outing against the six-time ODI WC champs. Unfortunately, the two sides have played only six matches against each other (four ODIs and two T20Is) so far and only one of those ties was a non-World Cup fixture when they met in a 50-over contest in Sharjah in 2012.

While it aptly depicts the sorry state of affairs in international cricket, it also emphasises why teams like Afghanistan deserve equal opportunities against all cricket-playing nations. Skipper Rashid could only wish that they could do anything on the issue when asked about the CA's stand at the post-match press conference but Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) chief executive officer (CEO) Naseeb Khan minced no words, urging to keep politics away from the sports. "We urge to keep the politics away from sports and express real sportsmanship in cricket. So we call upon all the teams to play with us not only in mega events but rather play us in bilateral cricket as well to let the world and the fans across the world enjoy some quality cricket," the ACB CEO told this daily. Naseeb said the victory will reinforce Afghanistan's growing stature as a quality side. "All of us, the leadership of ACB, the coaching staff and the captain planned for it (win versus Australia) and then stayed on the same page to execute it to perfection. We have had close games with Australia in the past. These victories are good enough to state that Afghanistan is turning out to be a force to be reckoned with and has the ability to beat any team in the world on any given day."

Speaking on the preparations for the event, the CEO said, "We have had excellent preparation since the start of the year. We played UAE, India, Sri Lanka and Ireland in T20Is this year, and then conducted the inaugural edition of the Qosh Tepa National T20 Cup on the edge of the T20 World Cup as part of the preparation for the event. In addition, we sent our team two weeks earlier to get used to the conditions and the hot weather there." **Brief scores:** Afghanistan 148/6 in 20 ovs (Gurbaz 60, Zadran 51; Cummins 3/28) **bt** Australia 127 in 19.2 ovs (Maxwell 59; Gulbadin 4/20, Naveen 3/20).

Kevin de Bruyne (L) was the chief architect behind Belgium's win over Romania | AP

Relieved we won: Belgium coach post vital victory

AGENCIES @ Cologne

IN front of Belgium's royal family, King Kev sealed the win. Belgium shook off the shock of losing to Slovakia in its opening game of the European Championship by beating Romania 2-0 on Saturday. Kevin De Bruyne's second-half goal completed the win after Youri Tielemans scored in the second minute at Cologne Stadium. Watching on were Belgium's King Philippe and Queen Mathilde.

"We knew what we needed to do. We needed to win otherwise we were going home," De Bruyne said. "I will do everything I can to keep the lads on track."

This was just what Belgium needed after the Slovakia stunner, which raised the prospect of another early exit from a Major tournament after being eliminated at the group stage of the 2022 World Cup.

Tielemans gave the No 3-ranked team in the world a flying start with a goal from the edge of the area. De Bruyne converted direct from Belgium goalkeeper Koen Casteels' long kick in the 80th. The result means all four teams in Group E have three points and there is all to play for in the final round of games on Wednesday, when Belgium play Ukraine and Romania take on Slovakia.

"I'm very relieved we won the game. It was very important to get the three points," Belgium coach Domenico Tedesco said.

While Belgium won, there was more frustration for Romelu Lukaku, who had a third goal ruled out by VAR at these Euros. Still, he was at the centre of his team's great start when laying the ball off for Tielemans to drive in low from the edge of the box.

UEFA EURO2024 GERMANY

Albania's Daku handed 2-game ban by UEFA

DUSSELDORF: Albania striker Mirlind Daku was banned for two games by UEFA on Sunday after leading fans in derogatory chants with a megaphone following his team's 2-2 draw against Croatia. The 26-year-old Rubin Kazan forward insulted North Macedonia and later apologised for it, but will now miss his side's final Group B match against Spain on Monday and a potential last-16 clash.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Group B was dubbed Euro 2024's 'Group of Death' but while Spain soared through with a game to spare, heavyweights Italy and Croatia meet on Monday (Tuesday IST) fighting to stay in the competition. Croatia, who reached the 2018 and 2022 World Cup final and semifinal respectively, may make several changes as they scrap for Euros survival.

CRUNCH CLASH

Albania vs Spain; Croatia vs Italy (both matches at 12:30 am)

LIVE ON SONY SPORTS NETWORK

IOA recommends medical insurance, pension scheme for all Olympians

ENS/AGENCIES @ Chennai

THE Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has proposed medical health insurance and pension scheme for Olympians and made a recommendation in this regard to its Executive Committee. IOA president PT Usha spoke about the move while felicitating legendary Indian athlete Gurbachan Singh Randhawa on the occasion of International Olympic Day at his residence here on Sunday. The proposal is expected to come up for discussion soon.

The IOA will solely cover all these expenses from its coffers. "The IOA is taking many athlete-centric steps and one of these is medical insurance and pension for all our Olympians," Usha told a news agency. She said the idea struck her after she met ailing Olympian Limba Ram, who has suffered a brain stroke and approached the IOA on a wheelchair for financial assistance. "I was really moved when I saw Limba Ram on a wheelchair in the IOA office struggling for financial assistance. That moment the idea came to my mind," she said.

IOA president PT Usha (R) with Gurbachan Singh Randhawa | IOA

Randhawa, who won a gold medal in decathlon in 1962 Asian Games and participated in two Olympics, appreciated the IOA chief's efforts but requested her to do more for the well-being of veteran Olympians. "Sportspersons' spouses don't get pension after their death so please pitch for that, that is necessary. I hope the government spends 10-15 per cent under CGHS on former athletes. Financial assistance for old athletes should be there."

Copa: Venezuela, Mexico claim max points

AGENCIES @ Santa Clara (US)

GOALS from substitutes Jhonder Cadiz and Eduard Bello gave Venezuela a 2-1 win over 10-man Ecuador in their Copa America Group B match on Saturday. In the group's other game, Mexico made a winning start to their campaign with a 1-0 victory over Jamaica in Houston but lost their captain Edson Alvarez to injury. Ecuador were forced to play with 10 men from the 22nd minute of the game at Levi Stadium when striker Enner Valencia was sent off for dangerous play.

The 34-year-old forward struck the chest of Venezuela defender Jose Martinez with his boot while challenging for a high, bouncing ball in the box and was initially awarded a yellow card but after a VAR review he was shown a straight red.

Venezuela's Jhonder Cadiz (left bottom) celebrates his goal on Saturday | AP

Ecuador, which had been in control of the game before the dismissal, responded well and went ahead in the 40th minute when Venezuela failed to clear a free-kick into the box and Jeremy Sarmiento pounced on the loose ball to drill home.

Venezuela head coach Fernando Batista made two changes at the break, bringing on Cadiz and Bello and both were to make a decisive impact.

"Vinotinto" striker Salomon Rondon laid the ball off to Cadiz, whose low side-footed shot from the edge of the box took a slight deflection as it flashed past Ecuador keeper Alexander Dominguez.

Then, in the 74th minute, Alexander Gonzalez whipped in a cross from the right, met with a diving header from Rondon which was parried by Dominguez but Bello reacted to fire home the loose ball.

TODAY'S MATCHES: Colombia vs Paraguay | 3:30 am (IST Tuesday); Brazil vs Costa Rica | 6:30 am.

INDIA VS SOUTH AFRICA

Anatomy of a clean sweep and lessons for future

KALYANI MANGALE @ Chennai

Indian team celebrates after winning the ODI series 3-0 on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

IN many ways, India's last home ODI series against Australia was full of missed opportunities. An opening match where India let Australia make a comeback with the bat after smashing their highest total against Australia, followed by a missed chance to chase down 258. By the time the final game of the series came in, Australia eased past to complete the clean sweep.

There was not a lot of time to decode the lessons learned from the ODI series because the T20I series was scheduled to be played two days after the final ODI at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. Only when the multi-format series against South Africa was announced, India got the opportunity to use the learnings from the Australian series.

When it comes to the South Africa series, which India won 3-0 on Sunday, the biggest positive for the side was in the form of leadership duo Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana's contribution with the bat. Mandhana had scored 63 runs in two innings against Australia. For Kaur, it was a forgetful series with the bat. Things changed in Bengaluru for both of them as South Africa were mostly clueless about how to dismiss them.

The most talked about point of difference between two teams during the loss against Australia was India's fielding. And up to a certain extent, it was the concern, especially looking at the efforts put in by their opposition. There have been significant developments on that front. There is still room for improvement but by the looks of it, India are doing way better than past. "After that series (vs Australia), we sat as a unit and spoke about what went wrong and what went right," all-rounder Shreyanka Patil told media after the series win. "We kept connected through calls, which kept us united. We had bowling and batting camps, and even during that, we were focused on our fielding as well. Once you keep working hard the results will always show up. We dominated the way we did in Bengaluru with a 3-0 win, and we are happy."
Brief scores: SA 215/8 in 50 ovs (Wolvaardt 61; Sharma 2/27, Reddy 2/36) **lost to** India 220/4 in 40.4 ovs (Smriti 90, Kaur 42).
Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

Verstappen wins Spanish Grand Prix

BARCELONA: Red Bull's three-time world champion Max Verstappen won the Spanish Grand Prix on Sunday from McLaren's pole-sitter Lando Norris to extend his lead in the world championship. Lewis Hamilton completed the podium at the Barcelona-Catalunya circuit for the Mercedes seven-time former champion's first podium of the season. This was Verstappen's 61st career win, seventh of the season.

Indian recurve mixed team bags WC bronze

ANTALYA: Indian recurve mixed team of Dhiraj Bommadevara and Bhajan Kaur produced an excellent show to rally past Mexico and clinch a bronze medal in the Archery World Cup Stage 3 here. Trailing 0-2, the Indian team produced a flawless round to draw level and seal a 5-3 win over their Mexican opponents Alejandra Valencia and Matias Grande.

Pegula powers to first grass-court title

BERLIN: Jessica Pegula saved five match points against Anna Kalinskaya to win her first title on grass in the Wimbledon warm-up WTA tournament in Berlin on Sunday. Fourth seed Pegula pulled through 6-7 (0), 6-4, 7-6 (3) after earlier ousting top seed Coco Gauff in the semifinal which had been suspended overnight. Berlin is Pegula's fifth career title.

ANGUISH WHEN IT COMES TO ENGLISH?

Learning a new language can be a daunting task for a few and a zealous experience for others. English falls broadly into a category where it is spoken by many, yet becomes a cause of anguish when one cannot. **Lovely Majumdar** finds out what veterans who conduct English proficiency tests and trainers of the test have to say

WHEN it comes to assessing one's knowledge of English, people tend to worry, as sometimes, the way they speak might not be in tandem with what may be deemed as grammatically or syntactically correct. This becomes a dilemma for individuals pursuing better opportunities in a foreign country, especially when they must take entry-level English proficiency tests.

For starters

Dr Albert P'Rayan, an English Language Teaching (ELT) resource person, emphasises the importance of having strong receptive and productive skills. To enhance receptive skills like listening and reading, he suggests engaging in a variety of conversations, presentations, talks, and different types of texts, such as news stories and novels. This practice, if continued, can also improve writing skills. He adds that for speaking, it is essential to develop subskills including grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

Another English proficiency expert, Richa Valecha, recommends that novices learning the language should listen attentively to English speakers. She also suggests conversing with native speakers, as this may prove highly beneficial.

Array of difficulty

English proficiency tests are designed to align with global standards. Various countries, organisations, and institutions also have standardised criteria tailored to specific roles and requirements that individuals may need to meet. But this may be a cause for confusion. Valecha, who is also an immigration and visa expert says, "It is important to understand if one is applying for work, immigration, visa, or education. One must also inquire into the required score bandwidth that would help them delineate a clear set of goals."

Not only this, she further asserts the importance of time when it comes to these tests. According to Richa, time is of utmost importance at every stage when you are to apply for immigration, visa or education. "As these tests are flexible, one can choose an optimal time to appear for it, but one must clearly gauge their competency, and prepare accordingly."

The Director of English Language Learning at Pearson India, Prabhul Ravindran, says to choose the right test, "you should align with your specific goals". He cites the example of the Pearson Test of English (PTE), which offers PTE Academic, allowing one to study at a university and PTE Core for Canadian Visa requirements, requiring different proficiencies.

The Oxford ELLT is accepted by over 150 universities worldwide. It evaluates one's listening, reading, writing, and speaking abilities — Amit Upadhyay, Oxford International Education Group

How do these tests fare in India?

India is a multilingual nation and home to over 1,600 languages and dialects. Even with the dominance of the English language, there can be a rise of a new dialect that combines both the English language and the dialect of the region, making it difficult for individuals to achieve perfection. Then do these tests fare well in India?

Richa Valecha is of the notion that these tests can prove to be challenging and cites reasons such as different backgrounds and exposure to different languages. "Even though a person knows and can speak English, to form syntactically correct sentences may prove to be a difficult task due to the effect of other languages interspersed with English, thereby, becoming a source of confusion for people."

As per an expert, Amit Upadhyay, who is the Regional Director, South Asia, Oxford International Education Group, the tests, especially Oxford ELLT Digital tests, prioritise accessibility and inclusivity. "Our tests ensure no discrimination against students with regional accents and speech impairments." He additionally says that examiners at Oxford are adept at accommodating a diverse range of students with their varying needs.

The Director at Pearson adds, "Despite this linguistic variety, the country has a significant number of individuals aspiring to study or work abroad. In 2023 alone, over 1.8 million English proficiency tests were conducted in India."

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Riddled with anxiety? Get rid of it

Dr Rayan acknowledges that these tests can, indeed, create significant pressure, particularly when the results are critical for job applications, immigration, or academic pursuits. However, he offers suggestions on how to alleviate this issue.

1. **Prepare well in advance:** Start early to avoid last-minute stress.
2. **Create a study plan:** Allocate two hours a day for about one to two months. Be consistent.
3. **Use good resources:** Utilise books, videos, and official online materials that are authentic.
4. **Practise under test conditions:** Take timed practise tests to simulate the exam environment.
5. **Familiarise yourself with the format:** Understand the structure and types of questions you will encounter in the exam.
6. **Seek professional guidance:** Consider enrolling in a preparatory course or consulting an expert.
7. **Maintain a positive mindset:** Believe in your ability to succeed.
8. **Confidence is the key:** Candidates should be confident in their ability to excel in any proficiency test.

Speak English in just 15 days!

Online influencers and coaches might tell you this, and certainly who is doubting your ability but here are two pointers that you should definitely be mindful about:

1. **Pronunciations can confuse you! Give it time!:** Sometimes you read (reed) and sometimes you read (red), take time to understand the difference.
2. **Grammar would help?:** It would, only if you have a certain expertise. Start by listening, speaking, writing and reading, then you can jump to grammar.

Get rich with resource

Numerous online sources provide comprehensive preparation strategies for any English proficiency test. These resources range from official test websites to other preparation platforms. Here's a list of a few online sources provided by Dr Albert P'Rayan, who possesses over two decades of teaching and training experience

Official test websites

For practice tests and preparation tips, the following sites are useful:

IELTS: www.ielts.org/ https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/prepare www.ielts.idp.com/prepare

TOEFL: www.ets.org/toefl toeflpractice.ets.org/

PTE: www.pearsonpte.com/pte-academic www.ptepractice.com/

Cambridge English Exams:

www.cambridgeenglish.org/learning-english/

Many online learning platforms offer preparations courses for English proficiency tests.

Coursera (www.coursera.org) offers courses specifically designed for IELTS, TOEFL, and other English proficiency tests.

Udemy (www.udemy.com) offers a range of affordable courses on IELTS, TOEFL, and PTE

Test-Guide (www.test-guide.com) offers free practice tests and study guides for various English proficiency tests.

Mobile apps

IELTS Prep App www.ielts.org/for-test-takers/test-day-advice/ielts-prep-app

TOEFL Go! www.ets.org/toefl/test-takers/ibt/test/preparation/toefl-go

PTE Academic https://www.pearsonpte.com/prepare

YouTube channels

www.youtube.com/user/IELTSOfficial www.youtube.com/user/TOEFLtv

Putting your best foot forward

"People who are not well-versed with the language can start their preparation in advance, although, they must not pressurise themselves too much. It is advised to begin with the simplest of concepts, and then progress eventually. The knowledge of extravagant words and fancy vocabulary is not fruitful, and would not benefit if you do not know the right usage. I also advise people to sound sharp and confident"

Richa Valecha, English Proficiency Trainer with nine years of experience

Unlocking opportunities

These tests open a host of opportunities that one may consider, as per Prabhul Ravindran:

1. **Wider acceptance globally:** Offer opportunities to expand professional horizons.
2. **Professional development and career advancement:** Enhance career prospects with global firms as they prefer employees with proven English skills
3. **Academic and research:** Open up opportunities for collaborative projects, research positions, and so on.

Richa Valecha, Expert

HINGLISH VINGLISH

WE have truly made that language our own. So much so that we have our phrases, which might not make sense to others. But for us, it is a part of everyday parlance. Let's look at a few such phrases

Phrase: What is your good name?
Correction: What is your name?

Phrase: Do the needful
Correction: Do what is needed to be done

Phrase: God Promise!
Correction: I swear to God!

Phrase: You're coming na?
Correction: Aren't you coming?

Phrase: It is like that only
Correction: She is like that

Phrase: Do one thing
Correction: Do this task for me

Phrase: We are toh going there
Correction: We are going there

Phrase: Today morning I went to temple
Correction: This morning I went to temple

Phrase: I feel first class
Correction: I feel great

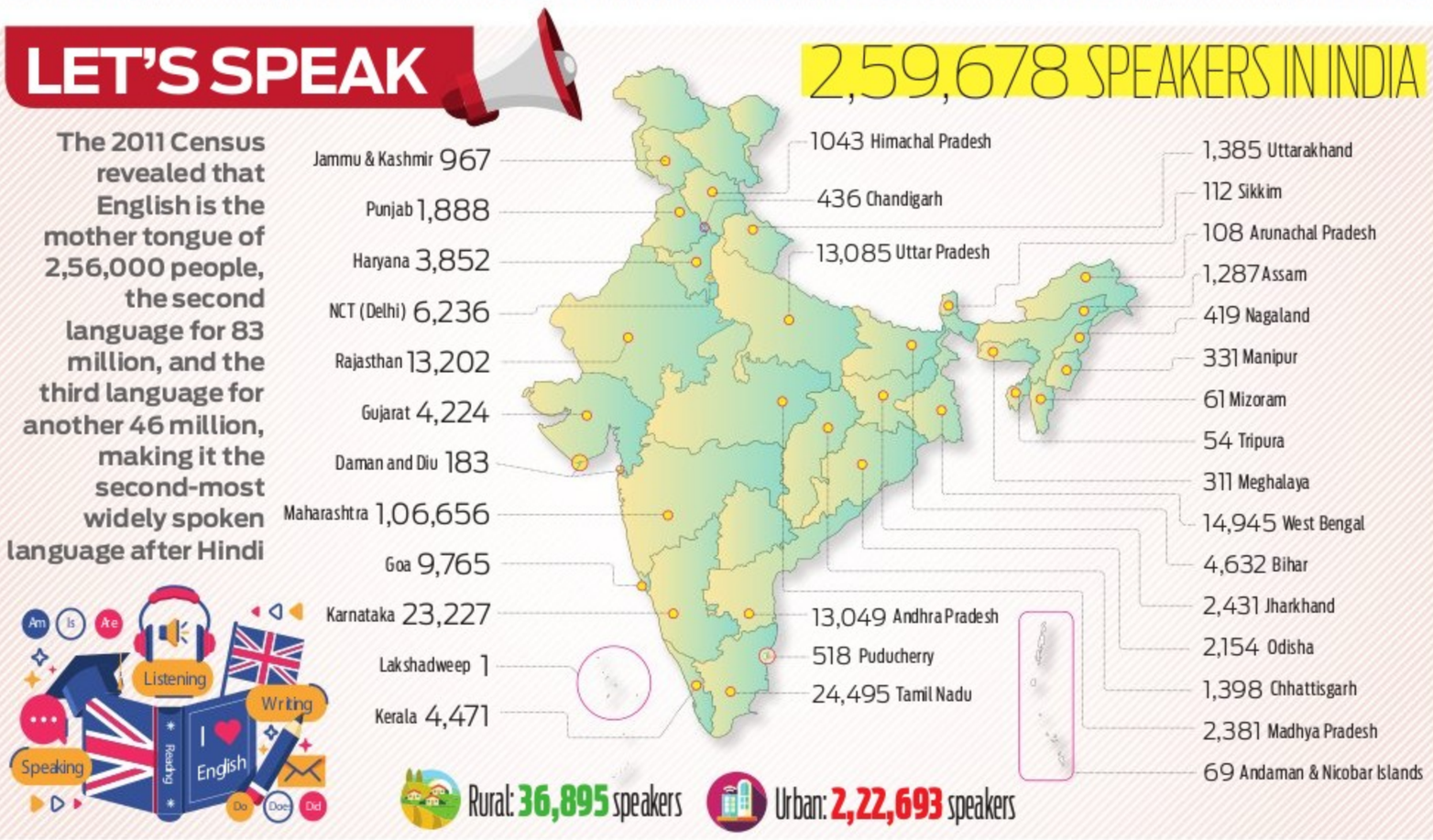
Phrase : He is doing timepass
Correction: He is wasting time

Phrase: I passed out of college in 1997
Correction: I graduated from college in 1997

Phrase: I am out of station
Correction: I am out of the city/ I am out of town

LET'S SPEAK

The 2011 Census revealed that English is the mother tongue of 2,56,000 people, the second language for 83 million, and the third language for another 46 million, making it the second-most widely spoken language after Hindi



WANT TO PERFORM WELL IN THESE TESTS?

TIPS FROM PRABHUL RAVINDRAN

WILL HELP YOU NAIL IT!

#1 Structure, not memorise

Develop a flexible approach for tasks like image description. Use structures like IDEA to guide your responses:

I - Identify the focal points
D - Describe them in a word
E - Explain them briefly
A - Analyse your answer

#2 Think critically and express

Avoid memorised scripts in essays. Use the PIE method to plan your writing and express your ideas clearly

P - Point out key headers
I - Illustrate them with examples
E - Explain them efficiently

BRAIN ENERGY

Did you know there are neurological benefits of speaking more than one language? Let's look at a few of them

full impact

- Speaking more than one language can have cognitive consequences. The language systems are active and competing in the neural network while being engaged, and while performing the task of language-switching, thereby, strengthening their control mechanisms.
- Being multilingual can increase your ability to focus while choosing from other competing perceptual information. This is called inhibitory control.
- People who can speak more than one language are also better at switching between two tasks, signifying better cognitive control.
- Higher proficiency in a second language, as well as earlier acquisition of that language, correlates with higher grey matter volume, resulting in mental development.
- The cognitive and sensory processing enhancements resulting from bilingual experience can enable a bilingual person to process environmental information more effectively, leading to a clearer signal for learning.
- Bilingualism seems to offer a way to combat the natural decline of cognitive function and maintain what is known as "cognitive reserve".
- Older bilingual people enjoy improved memory.
- Knowing more than one language can also result in better memory, visual-spatial skills, and even creativity.

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24.06.2024
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Historical game

The longest match in tennis history was on this day between John Isner and Nicolas Mahut in the men's singles at the 2010 Wimbledon

THE MATCH

The match started with John and Nicolas taking two sets each on day 1. On day 2, the final set started at 2.05 pm and at 5.45 pm, the match became the longest with the score 32-32

CHANGE IN RULES

In 2022, all four Grand Slam tournaments announced that it would trial a new 10-point tie break when scores reach 6-6 in the deciding set

OTHER LONGEST GAME

In 1984, in Central Fidelity Banks International tournament, the game lasted for six-and-a-half hours between Americans Vicki Nelson and Jean Hepner

Sleek 'n' smooth

PG 3

'I WANTED TO RUN BACK HOME TILL 2015-16'

From fighting for acceptance on the national stage to becoming one of the all-time sporting greats of the country, cricketer R Ashwin's newly-released memoir is a deep dive into his two-decade career

GOMESH S

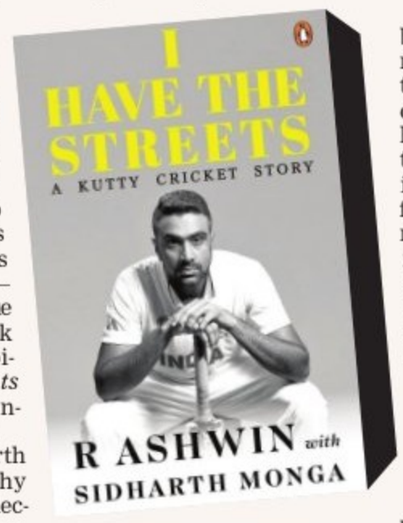
1ST Street, Ramakrishnapuram. It's a street that's just about 160m long, connecting Arya Gowda Road and Ramakrishnapuram Lane in West Mambalam locality of Chennai.

From the outset, it might seem like a random street. But in the context of the sporting history of not just Chennai, but the country, 1st Street, Ramakrishnapuram holds paramount significance. After all, this is the street where **R Ashwin**, India's premier off-spinner, hails from. The street is not just an origin story of Ashwin – who has played 100 Tests for India, is the first from Tamil Nadu to do so and take 516 Test wickets so far. It is so much more. To understand the significance it holds to Ashwin and what it means to him, all one has to do is read just two paragraphs – the first one of the prologue and the last one in the book – of his newly-published biography: *I Have The Streets – A Kutti Cricket Story* (Penguin Random House; ₹699).

Co-authored with Sidharth Monga, Ashwin's biography is a deep dive into his two-decade-long journey from Chennai to conquering the world through the eyes of the 37-year-old. For any top athlete, especially an elite Indian cricketer, whose life is constantly under the public eye, their life on and off the field is often well documented with different perspectives for the fans and readers to perceive. Ashwin, in *I Have The Streets*, gives his perspective of things and how he felt and reacted to every small thing that happened to him, his fight with the perception that was constantly created about him without getting into who's right or wrong in a particular situation. He has done so as a conscious choice, and with his typical comical sense and pop culture references.

From being in a national-level age-group camp without knowing Hindi to his constant fight for acceptance despite growing up in the ranks as an international cricketer, Ashwin has not held anything back. "Firstly, I think we need to understand if you are coming from this part of the country you need to fight for acceptance. You can't quit. So that is one thing I wanted to really establish," Ashwin says on the sidelines of his book launch event at the Taj Coromandel, Chennai. "I don't want to label it now but we very often want it too easy and don't expect it to be tough. Believe it or not, the capital is New Delhi. The financial capital is Bombay. Whether you accept it or not is your choice. But if you want to be in the big boys league and if you aspire for it you must adapt yourself to be that."

Even as Ashwin tried to adapt and fight



for acceptance for the first half of his career, he found peace and solace in coming back home to Tamil Nadu for domestic cricket. In fact, it is something he circles back to throughout his early years in international cricket. "It is just the bare truth," he says. "My debut was in 2010, I had been travelling with the Indian team since 2009, and professional cricket from 2006 for TN. The Tamil Nadu Ranji Trophy dressing room felt a lot more like a safe haven. As a professional cricketer, I am hitting my 17-18th year. I would be lying if I said I have felt comfortable for a large part of it. I always wanted to run back home to my friends and my family till 2015-16. And only after that, I can't really say what opened up but things do change. And you need to find it. You need to first accept that this is how it is. And you need to learn how to combat the dealing mechanisms."

And Ashwin eventually did figure out his way to deal with things and find acceptance, but one will have to wait for the sequel to know in detail about it. *I Have The Streets*, meanwhile, is about him running back to his streets where he felt like home. It is about a family – his parents, and grandfather – making immense sacrifices to give him the best chance to do what he loves the most: play cricket.

For Ashwin, writing this book is about sharing his story and leaving it to the reader to decide their take on it. "I care very deeply about what I have written. But I didn't think about what sort of an impact it would leave. I can't force it to be a powerful storyline for someone. You while reading it might resonate with it. Somebody else might not. But my only goal for this was as long as it leaves an impact on five percent of the people that read the book, I would have done my job. I believe we all grace this planet for a very short period of time. If we can touch the lives of people through any form that we can. Even if you can make them laugh or if you can make them learn through your story it's great," he says.

> *I care very deeply about what I have written. But I didn't think about what sort of an impact it would leave. I can't force it to be a powerful storyline for someone. You while reading it might resonate with it. Somebody else might not. But my only goal for this was as long as it leaves an impact on five percent of the people that read the book, I would have done my job*
>
> R Ashwin, cricketer

PIC: MARTIN LOUIS

File photo of passengers checking in

In recent months, DigiYatra, a facial recognition-based boarding system, is facing increasing backlash over legal ambiguities, data transparency issues, and alleged involuntary registration

WATCHFUL EYES

DESE GOWDA

EARLIER this month, a passenger boarding a flight at the Hyderabad International Airport noticed an airline staff member taking pictures of every passenger at the boarding gate. When the passenger later inquired about the incident on social media, the airline's official Twitter account response shocked netizens. The airline explained that the process was part of DigiYatra, a voluntary, paperless onboarding initiative that uses Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) to allow passengers to pass through security checkpoints without physical documents at select airports across the country, including Bangalore International Airport (BIAL).

Since its launch in late 2022, the initiative has consistently raised significant privacy concerns. The incident at Hyderabad Airport brought these concerns into sharp focus. Passengers were photographed without explicit consent, contradicting the voluntary nature of DigiYatra. Disha Verma, Associate Policy Counsel at the Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), attributes these issues to lack of regulation and oversight of facial recognition technology (FRT) in India. She notes that DigiYatra's reliance on FRT is problematic due to its sensitive nature, involving biometric data, travel information, and personal details, which raises concerns about mass surveillance, profiling, and data misuse.

"Globally, these risks are well-documented, and they are no different in India," she says, adding that the public-private partnership nature of DigiYatra complicates transparency regarding data storage and handling. "When we file Right to Information (RTI) requests about data storage and infrastructure, we are often met with refusals on the grounds that it is a private entity. Conversely, the private organisation running DigiYatra is not obligated to disclose this information either," she explains. Furthermore, Verma points out that DigiYatra's vaguely-worded privacy policy allows for the sharing of data with law enforcement and undisclosed third parties for various reasons, including promotional purposes. "This contradicts their claims of not storing data. They have recently acknowledged the gaps in their privacy policy and promised to work on a new one, but the current situation still leaves much to be desired," she adds.

> *They want to make the normal queue disappear so people in a hurry have no choice but to use DigiYatra. My experience was frustrating. I realised that there was only one line available for people who chose not to enrol in DigiYatra, and it was at the end of the terminal*
>
> Anand Sankar, traveller

Dark Patterns

Meanwhile, there has been a steady stream of travellers sharing their worsening experiences at airports due to DigiYatra. Many have reported coercive tactics and dark patterns used to enrol unwilling, or worse, unwitting travellers in DigiYatra. Anand Sankar, a Bengalurean, describing his experience earlier this year, says, "They want to make the non-DigiYatra queue disappear so people in a hurry have no choice but to use DigiYatra. My experience was frustrating. I realised that there was only one line available for people who chose not to enrol, and it was at the end of the terminal. The funniest thing was that there was a DigiYatra representative in that queue as well, trying to enrol people into the service."

Similarly, Vinay Kumar, another Bengalurean, says, "During my visit to the airport after July last year, I noticed that many people were simply asked to click 'yes' for consent at the gate, even if they were not in the DigiYatra line. The staff at the gate seemed to be acting as ushers, clicking 'yes' for everyone. When I said I didn't want it, they clicked 'no' and I just went through." He further adds, "In my experience, DigiYatra doesn't make much difference. Although I have never used it, I've noticed there are more DigiYatra lines than non-DigiYatra lines. If you don't opt for DigiYatra, you will be standing in a queue. Sometimes, due to overcrowding and slow processing in the DigiYatra line, I have gone through faster on the normal line."

Representatives from BIAL and DigiYatra did not respond to our request for comments.

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor
(@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**
The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The first prize winner this week will win a complimentary voucher worth ₹2,000 from Caraway Kitchen, Conrad Bengaluru**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Mochi 2) Blini 3) Pesto

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Abhay Prakash 2) Sankar K Murthy 3) Anilkumar J

CITY READ

Seven-day art event in the city

Shantamani Kala Kendra, in partnership with Jain International Residential School, is organising Parshv Padap, an art event till June 29 at the JAIN Global Campus in the city. The event aims to unite artists from across India and spread a message of unity through diverse stone carving sculptures and canvas paintings. The event includes a sculpture competition and promotes inclusion by involving differently-abled artists. Finished pieces will be exhibited on the final day, and participants will receive trophies and certificates.

Academy celebrates International Day of Yoga

Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) marked the International Day of Yoga on June 21 with the theme Yoga for Self and Society. Organised by the Division of Yoga, Centre for Integrative Medicine & Research (CIMR), the event saw 350 participants, including students, staff, faculty, and residents. The celebration began at 8am at the Marena Sports Complex with a yoga session led by Dr Annapoorna K, Head of the Division of Yoga, CIMR. Participants followed the UGC protocol, practising various asanas, pranayama, and relaxation techniques. Distinguished guests included Dr HS Ballal, Pro-Chancellor of MAHE, and other senior officials.

BOOK NOOK

Secrets Within
by Mushtaq Shiekh

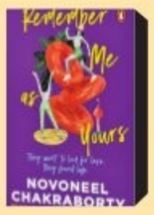
Dive into Secrets Within, where the scent of scandal is as intoxicating as the allure of power. Here, every corner turned could be a step towards an empire or a slip into an abyss, and every face masks a secret dying to break free.

The Little Sparrow Murders
by Seishi Yokomizo

The Little Sparrow Murders is the sixth classic Detective Kindaichi mystery. The scruffy detective Kosuke Kindaichi returns to solve another satisfying stand-alone murder mystery. As several bodies are discovered staged in bizarre poses echoing the lyrics of a children's song, the quirky, endearing Japanese detective must string together the clues to solve this fiendish puzzle.

Caught in a Web
by Sandeep Sharma

A gripping psychological thriller that takes the reader into the world of twisted games and horrifying realities, where the lines between right and wrong are constantly blurred.



Remember Me As Yours
by Novoneel Chakraborty

It is a poignant coming-of-age tale of two girls who find themselves singled out by society and are desperate to make sense of their personal losses.

RHYTHM AND ELEGANCE

Dancer Shivani Hemanth enchants the audience with her Bharatanatyam performance at JSS Auditorium on Saturday | ASWIN A

QUICKFIX

NANNARI JALJEERA SHARBATH

Contributed by **Uma Sridharan**, Chennai

INGREDIENTS
- **Nannari concentrate:** 2 tbsp
- **Jaljeera:** 1 tsp
- **Juice of a lemon**
- **Crushed ice**
- **Water or soda**

METHOD
- In a tall glass, add a handful of crushed ice.
- Pour Nannari concentrate. Add jaljeera.
- Pour lemon juice. Add chilled water or soda. Mix well.
- Decorate with boondhi. Serve chilled.
- You can also use Sprite or Limca instead.

DR VIVEK ARORA

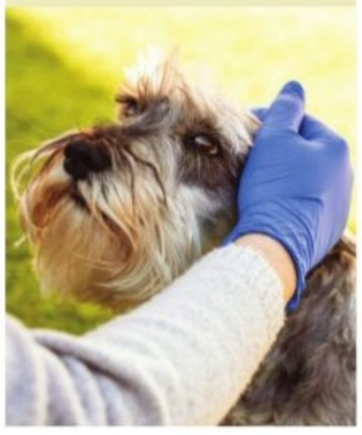
drvivekarora@hotmail.com

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

My three-year-old neutered dog often suffers from severe itching, though tests show that he has no ticks or skin infections. What can be done about it?

ASK AN XPERT

I am very concerned about the itching or pruritus condition of your pet. In fact, it's the most common skin condition in pets. As your question explains, he is free of ectoparasites (ticks and fleas) and skin infections. I anticipate that you have done the skin scraping test, which might have hopefully turned out to be negative. The other factor causing itching is allergy (dietary and environmental). The most common dietary agents causing such issues are wheat and milk sources, so avoid them. Also, sun his bedding, comb him twice daily, and put him on omega 3, 6, and 9 supplements. These steps should help.



FITBIT

SUKHASANA FORWARD BEND WALL
(EASY POSE FORWARD BEND WALL)

This is a slight forward bend performed in an easy cross (Sukhasana). This pose helps boost lung capacity and increases focus. Sitting tall with your hands stretched overhead and palms pressed over the wall lets the easy and free flow of prana (energy) from the base of the spine to the crown of the head. It is included in daily yoga and is used to warm up, stretch, and strengthen the wrist, elbow, and shoulder joints by stretching the arms. It helps prevent damage to the deeper tissues or tendons by ageing or overusing them. This can be included in yoga sequences for pregnant women and seniors, as the wall will act as a support to avoid overstretching of the back and arms.

STEPS
- While moving towards the end of Seated Wind Release Pose Variation At Wall, turn around and sit facing the wall.
- Sit about two feet away from the wall in Easy Pose.
- Inhale and raise the arms up, exhale, and rest them on the wall above shoulder level as you come forward with your body.
- Push the wall as you exhale and feel the stretch at the shoulders, upper arms, entire back, and chest.
- Stay here for about 4-6 breaths.
- Look straight at the wall.
- You can also choose to sit in front of the wall in the Seated Straddle Pose and push the wall to get more stretch.
- Finally, come back to the normal position. Relax.

BENEFITS
- Strengthens the neck, back, upper arms, and shoulders.
- The lifting action of the arms helps open the sides of the body.
- Opens the chest cavity and strengthens the respiratory muscles.
- Boosts lung capacity and is beneficial for students with asthma and other respiratory disorders.
- Engages the core and builds stamina and stability.
- Elongates the back and impacts the breathing, hips, back, neck, and shoulders.
- Allows the free flow of prana from the base of the spine to the crown of the head and boosts energy levels.
- This is a calming pose that can be performed as a cool-down practice after doing inversions and in nighttime yoga to promote better sleep.
- Helps to avoid problems like golfer's elbow, tennis elbow, or carpal tunnel syndrome.

LIMITATIONS
- Students with injuries to the shoulders, elbows, neck, or spine should take it slow.
- Those who have knee, ankle, or hip injuries or are not able to sit on the floor with crossed legs can use the support of a pillow or folded blanket, or even practice the pose while seated on a chair.
- Practitioners with weak knees, acute pain around the neck, high blood pressure, vertigo, nausea, dizziness, or depression should always follow this pose under the guidance of a yoga expert.

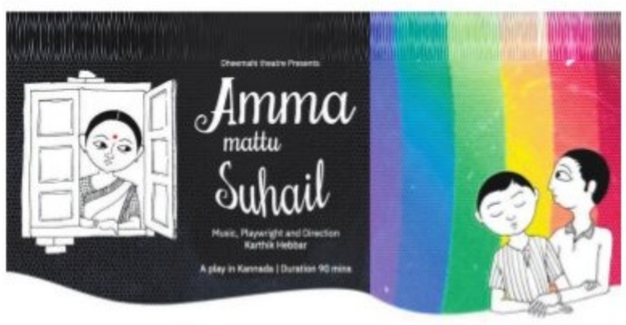
By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Run for Fun

Lace-up your running shoes and gear up for a journey with a community of running enthusiasts, welcoming runners of all levels for a fun, energetic and supportive running experience.

WHEN: June 25, 7am
WHERE: Small world, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



Pride On Stage

Watch *Amma Mattu Suhail*, a powerful play celebrating queer love. Experience a journey through empathy and the raw emotions of passion, anger, sadness, and love as you follow an interfaith gay couple and a mother as they navigate understanding and acceptance.

WHEN: June 25, 7.30pm **WHERE:** Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Boardgaming Evening

Revisit the inner child in you with fun-filled board games like King of Tokyo, Sequence, Forest Run and many more. Explore, socialise and make new friends at this board game meetup.

WHEN: June 25, 4pm
WHERE: BurgerMan, Indiranagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Adventure Time

Indulge in the exciting trekking experience from Makalidurga base camp along with exploring indoor and outdoor activities including kayaking, camping, and more.

WHEN: June 25, 8am
WHERE: Makali Durga Hill, Doddaballapura
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Words Matter

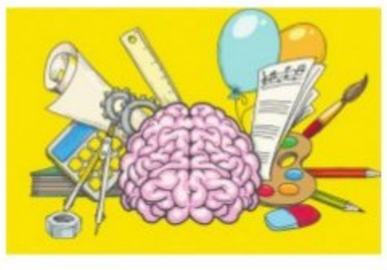
Explore your emotions, thoughts, and behaviours to discover your true self, manage emotions, and gain clarity with this free journaling workshop organised by Mpower. Register at bit.ly/4aUp6rB

WHEN: June 29, 5pm
WHERE: Mpower - The Centre, Indiranagar
DETAILS: 9702803210

Tech Talks

Engage in an insightful experience as part of the Introduction to Brain workshop series that explores the neuroscience of emotions, decision-making, and cutting-edge neurotechnologies. The third session in the series – Future Tech for the Brains – will offer valuable insights and practical skills you can apply daily.

WHEN: June 25, 5pm
WHERE: Parsec, Jayanagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com



Laughter Fest

Step into the rollercoaster of wit, satire and observational comedy as a diverse lineup of comedians takes the stage, promising a fun night.

WHEN: June 24, 9pm
WHERE: The Underground Comedy Club, KHB Colony
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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ARTCORNER

ASHES TO ASHES

Tenzing Dakpa depicts the aftermath of forest fires in North Goa in this artwork. He prints the images using pigment ink on acid-free paper and manipulates the print by crumpling the paper, to evoke, on the very surface, impressions of the terrain of the dead forests

SLEEK 'N' SMOOTH

Nissan has the automated manual transmission variant of Magnite, its popular SUV model

PRICE

There are four variants priced at ₹6.60 lakh, ₹7.50 lakh, ₹8.28 lakh and ₹8.96 lakh, ex-showroom, respectively. After one week's drive – city and highway mixed – I recorded around 17 kmpl fuel efficiency. Getting an automatic SUV at such an attractive price is quite a deal

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

NOWADAYS, SUVs are the stars of the road. Ask anyone, and they will say, "I want an SUV". And there are plenty of choices. But if someone asks to see an 'Automatic SUV under ₹10 lakh', disappointment seems to be the usual result. There are very few options in the range, but one natural choice may very well be the Nissan Magnite.

When the Japanese carmaker introduced Magnite a couple of years ago, it garnered many adjectives to its credit. At first glance, it looks big, bold and muscular. A large grille, flanked by chrome and LED light strips easily turns heads. Among SUVs with a length of nearly 4 meters, the Magnite has taken the field due to its attractive shape and size, while at the same time shockingly low price. And, it is also the only Nissan car currently on sale in India. What's more – it sells well too.

Banking on the popularity, Nissan recently introduced Automated Manual Transmission (AMT) to its 1-litre petrol variant of Magnite, making it the most affordable Automatic SUV. Recently, I got an opportunity to experience Magnite for a week. Here's my take:

THE BASICS

The Magnite has two engine options – a 72hp 1-litre petrol engine and a 100hp turbo petrol variant. Since launch, the turbo engine has been available with manual gear and CVT automatic options, but the regular petrol engine model came with only the manual gear option. Now, with AMT along with that engine, Nissan has given an opportunity to those who want effortless driving, at a lower cost than the CVT variant.

LOOK AND FEEL

The plus point of Magnite is that it offers more features at a lower price. The bi-projector LED headlamps with LED turn indicators are stylish and sleek. L-shaped daytime running lamps (DRLs) and LED fog lamps are useful, as well as beautiful. From the side, a high ground clearance of 205mm makes the Magnite very SUV-ish. The 16-inch alloy wheels, silver skid plates, roof rails, side cladding, etc, compliment the car's beauty. Split tail lamps, integrated spoiler and well-designed folds mark the rear of the car.

Inside, spaciousness, good seats, a 360-degree camera, good infotainment system, AC with air filter, etc, are welcoming. The dashboard was a bit high for me, a not-so-tall person. The quality of some panels on the doors may also need a bit of improvement. The seats are very supportive. Leg room, knee room and headroom are plenty for all seats.

SAFETY & TECHNOLOGY

The Magnite has been awarded a four-star Safety Rating for Adult Occupant Safety from Global NCAP. An electronic stability programme, traction control system, hill start assist and tyre pressure monitoring system are new additions across all variants. Equipped with vehicle dynamics control and steering active learning, the SUV takes instant control of difficult terrains, rough roads, and sharp curves.

Tech features are all modern. I felt more confident and focused with all the driving information, safety features and much more on the 17.78 cm TFT display. Driving through congested traffic is also very easy with the help of a surround-view monitor.

PERFORMANCE

As mentioned earlier, the 1-litre naturally aspirated petrol engine has a peak power of 72 hp, which is just enough for daily commute. The Magnite with AMT gearbox is mostly suited for city trips. It moves effortlessly in normal situations. When going on the highways, it is better to drive at a decent speed without getting too excited. Sudden overtaking and quickly regaining speed after braking, etc, are not so easy. Shifting gears in manual mode is sometimes helpful – meaning that Magnite AMT is not for the so-called driving enthusiasts.

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

XPRESS HIGHWAY
FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

NEW RELEASES

BMW R 1300 GS LAUNCHED IN INDIA

BMW Motorrad India has launched the all-new BMW R 1300 GS. This adventure motorcycle will be available as a completely built-up unit (CBU) and deliveries will commence at the end of June. The introductory ex-showroom price for the BMW R 1300 GS Pro variant is ₹20.95 lakh. Additionally, three optional styles are also available for individualisation - Style Triple Black, Style GS Trophy and 719 Tramuntana. It comes with a two-cylinder boxer engine, producing an output of 107 kW (145 hp) at 7750 rpm, developing a maximum torque of 149 Nm at 6,500 rpm. The model has an entirely new design, with an impressive weight saving of 12 kg compared to the previous variant.

ŠKODA'S LAUNCHES KUSHAQ ONYX AT

Škoda Auto India, in its strategy of continuous product actions, has implemented one more enhancement in its 5-star safe fleet with the introduction of the Kushaq Onyx AT. The carmaker has now upgraded the model with an automatic transmission and a host of new features, making it the most affordable automatic in its segment. The Onyx AT, like the Onyx before it, slots between the current Active and Ambition variants of Škoda's best-selling SUV. It is powered by Škoda Auto India's 1.0 TSI turbocharged three-cylinder petrol engine. It develops 85 kW (115 ps) of power and 178 Nm of torque and is mated to a six-speed automatic transmission. Kushaq Onyx 1.0 TSI AT ex-showroom price is ₹13,49,000/-

JEEP COMPASS @ ATTRACTIVE PRICES

Jeep India has announced that its highly desirable Compass range will now be available at an accessible price of ₹18.99 lakh, making it attainable for customers seeking luxury, capability, and style. Its variants are now priced as follows — Sport: ₹18.99 lakh, Longitude: ₹22.33 lakh, Night Eagle: ₹25.18 lakh, Limited: ₹26.33 lakh, Model S: ₹28.33 lakh. Models are available in Manual Transmission and Automatic Transmission with 2WD and 4WD options.

MARUTI SUZUKI RELEASES DREAM SERIES LIMITED EDITION

Maruti Suzuki India Limited has come out with a slew of exciting initiatives. The company has introduced the Dream Series Limited Edition for three popular models: Alto K10 VXI+, S-Presso VXI+, and Celerio LXI, all priced at ₹4.99 lakh. Additionally, it has announced a price reduction for AGS variants of select models such as Alto K10, S-Presso, Celerio, Wagon-R, Swift, Dzire, Baleno, FRONX and Ignis. The Dream Series Limited Edition models are available now. The special variants will offer a compelling package of model-specific enhancements designed to elevate key product unique selling propositions with safety and utility features.

NUGGETS

University extends application date for UG courses

Bengaluru City University, Central College Campus, has extended its application date for UG admissions in a few courses till June 29. Applications for UG Courses in B.Com - Financial Accounting, B.Com - Financial Technology, B.Sc - Computer Science, Mathematics, Statistics, and B.Sc - FAD for the Academic Year 2024-25 has been extended.

Automaker launches digital marketplace

Tata Motors, one of India's leading commercial vehicles manufacturers, has announced the launch of Tata Motors Fleet Verse - a comprehensive digital marketplace for Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles. The platform offers features like new vehicle discovery, configuration, acquisition, financing, and more. Fleet Verse aims to consolidate all aspects of commercial vehicle ownership onto a single platform. Launching the Fleet Verse platform, Bharat Bhushan, Head – Digital Business, Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles, said, "We aim to streamline the commercial vehicle ownership experience, ensuring it's fast, intelligent, safe, and reliable."

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

AFFIDAVIT

I, Mr. Krishna Narasimha Annigeri S/o Late Narasimha Krishnacharya Annigeri Nara, aged about 85 years, R/at. Srinivas Palmwoods, Flat No.307, 3rd Floor, 47/7, Kudlu Main Road, Opp. BBMP Office, Vinayak Nagar, Bengaluru-560068, do hereby State that **Krishna Narasimha Annigeri and Krishnarao Narasimharao Annigeri** both are my name and both names are one and the same and belongs to me, vide affidavit dated 29.05.2024, sworn before Sakina Bano, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **YUSUF AZEEZ BHAI DOHADWALA**, S/o Azeez Ali Hussain Bhai Dohadwala, age 46 years, permanent R/o # 976, 27th A Man Road, Jayanagar 9th Block, Bangalore-560 069, Karnataka, India do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **YUSUF AZEEZ BHAI DAHODWALA** to **YUSUF AZEEZ BHAI DOHADWALA**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **YUSUF AZEEZ BHAI DOHADWALA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 21st June 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MOHAMMED HUSSAIN** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **SRIVATSA RAMAKRISHNA**, aged about 50 years, S/o Ramakrishna, Residing at No. 489, 3rd A Main Road, 2nd Phase, 6th Block, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560085, do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **SRIVATSA RAMAKRISHNA** and **SRIVATSA R** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **SRIVATSA RAMAKRISHNA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 21-06-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **B.K.R. KRISHNAMURTHY** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MANU CHAVHAN**, Aged about 36 years, S/o. Babu Chavhan, Residing at No. 111, 2nd Cross, Chowdeshwari Layout, Vishnuvardhan Statue Road, Begur, Bangalore South, Benglauru - 560 114, Karnataka, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MANU** to **MANU CHAVHAN** vide affidavit dated 20.06.2024 sworn to before Dharani .P, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SUNIL T**, S/o. Thippeswamy .D, Aged about 29 years, presently residing at Room No. MMA 3, 3rd Floor, Opp. Biocon, MM Tower, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Rural - 560 100, permanent resident of Kamandalagondi, Chikkamallenahole, Davanagere, Karnataka - 577 528, today at Bengaluru, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SUNEELA T** to **SUNIL T.** Vide affidavit dated 22.06.2024 sworn to before Anitha Bai, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ALKA KUMARI SINGH**, W/o. Rohit Anand, Resident of No. 599, Sobha Nilaya, Near Venkateshwara Temple, Anjanapura, Bengaluru-560108, have changed my name to **ALKA KUMARI,** vide affidavit dated: 22.06.2024 before notary ARAVIND PATIL .G.G, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **(OLD NAME) KUNAL** S/o KALPESH KUMAR, residing at No 59, 5th Main, 6th Cross, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560018, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) KUNAL** to **(NEW NAME) KUNAL JAIN** vide affidavit dated 22.06.2024 sworn before Notary Prakasha.C, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **B.L. GOWRAMMA**, W/o Mr. G.T. Shiva Kumar, No. 21/2C, New Sapthagiri Layout, Behind Kishor Residency, Yadalam Nagar, Uttarahalli, Bangalore-560 061, I have changed my name from **B.L. GOWRI** to. **B.L. GOWRAMMA**, before Notary Public **D.K. Rameshappa**, Notary Register No. 855, vide Affidavit on 22/06/2024.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **JAGADISH HIREMATH** (Old Name), S/o BASAYYA, Aged about 44 years, Resident at NO 587/1/C-58/1/B, RCG LAYOUT, ANANTHAPURA, YELAHANKA, BENGALURU-560064, KARNATAKA, declare that I have changed my name from **JAGADISH HIREMATH** (Old Name) to **JAGADISH BASAYYA HIREMATH** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **JAGADISH BASAYYA HIREMATH** (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated: 22/06/2024 before Notary **C.V. EARAPPA**, at BENGALURU

AFFIDAVIT

I, Sri. **Dinesh Babu Munireddy**, aged about 49 years, S/o. Sri. Munireddy B.P, # 165, Rainbow Residency, Sarjapura Road, Near WIPRO Corporate Office, Junnasandra, Bangalore - 560 035, do hereby declare that, 'SAHANA MUNIREDDY' is my Daughter, that in the School Records of my said Daughter, my name i.e., the Father Name of Student is recorded as **Dinesh Munireddy** instead of **Dinesh Babu Munireddy**, which is recorded by oversight and inadvertence. I do hereby declare that, my name is **Dinesh Babu Munireddy** and not **Dinesh Munireddy**. Vide affidavit dated 21.06.2024 sworn before VIIth Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MAREDDY VYSHNAVI** W/o. Guru Venkateswara Reddy, resident of Prestige Tranquility, Bommenhalli, Bengaluru-49. I have changed my daughter's name from **NAIRA** to **NAIRA REDDY** by virtue of an affidavit dated 19.06.2024 sweared before H.M. Govindaraju, Notary Public, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **RAJESH AGARWAL**, C/o. Laxminarayanan Agarwal, aged about 52 years, residing at Flat No 1201, Tower-3, 12th Floor, Sattva Divinity, Mysore Road, Nayandahalli, Government Electric Factory, Bengaluru 560 026, hereby declare that my names **RAJESHALIASDEEPAK LAXMINARAYANAN AGARWAL and RAJESH AGARWAL** belongs to one and the same person, henceforth, I have decided to continue my name in future as **RAJESH AGARWAL** vide affidavit dated 21-06-2024 sworn to before advocate and notary S. Vijayakumar, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **(OLD NAME) NARASIMHA RAO SHOBHA** W/o AMARNATH AEKBOTE PUNDALIKARAO, residing at No 12, Sri Sharada Pundalika Krupa, 17th Main, 18th Cross, MRCR Layout, Opp Udaya School, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) NARASIMHA RAO SHOBHA** to **(NEW NAME) SHOBHA AMARNATH** vide affidavit dated 22.06.2024 sworn before Notary Prakasha.C, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **WAJIDA TABASUM**, W/o Mohammed Sadiq Badeghar, aged about 46 years, residing at No. 833, Kaashana E Ashrafiya, 3rd Main Road, VIPS Garden Marvel Kidzee, Kempegowda Nagar, Peenya Dasarahalli, Dasarahalli Post, Bangalore, Karnataka-560057, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **WAJIDA TABASUM** to **WAJIDA TABASUM BADEGHAR**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **WAJIDA TABASUM BADEGHAR** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 22-06-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **LEELA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, the undersigned **J. MOHANA PRIYA** (new name) previously called **G. MOHANA PRIYA** (old name), aged about 37 years, W/o. Mr. S. Gopala Krishnan, resident of No. 68 C Type 4 Quarters, Railway Colony, Diesel Loco Shed, K.R. Pura, Bangalore-560 036, do hereby solemnly declare and state that I have changed my name as **J. MOHANA PRIYA** from **G. MOHANA PRIYA** by swearing to an affidavit in front of Notary public, **Mr. K.B. SADHA SHIVAPPA** on 21.06.2024 for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MEENA KAMATH**, Present Residential Address No. 91, Ektha Residency, Flat No. FF02, KG Main Road, Ramarao Layout, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Bengaluru - 560 085, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MEENA GADIYAR** to **MEENA KAMATH** vide affidavit dated 21.06.2024 sworn to before Aravind Patil G.G., Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **(OLD NAME) JAYASHREE RAWAL C** Residing at No. Sri Narayan Nivas, No.23, Behind K.L.S. School, Raghavendra Colony, Attibele, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 562107. Have changed my Name from **(OLD NAME) JAYASHREE RAWAL C** to **(NEW NAME) JAYASHREE RAWAL** vide Affidavit Dated 18.06.2024 sworn before Notary AMARANARYANA REDDY, Bangalore.

For SMART ADS & INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

Contact : Mr Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893

Vasishta Simha with Dinesh Gundu Rao

Love Li heads to Dubai

Meanwhile, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, who watched the film, lauds it for raising AIDS awareness

CE FEATURES

VASISHTA Simha's latest film *Love Li*, directed by Chethan Keshav, released on June 9, has been drawing praise from both audiences and industry insiders. Recently, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao joined several prominent film personalities for a special screening, where he expressed his admiration for the film's impactful message.

Love Li, based on a true incident, stands out for its unique storyline aimed at raising awareness about AIDS. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao commended the film for its realistic portrayal of significant social issues. He emphasized the severity of AIDS and highlighted the government's ongoing efforts to combat the disease. He lauded the team for their dedication to educating the public through cinema and expressed hope for more such films tackling important social themes.

The special screening was attended by actors Srinagar Kitty, Chandan, and Kavitha Gowda along with other celebrities. Produced by Ravindra Kumar under the banner of Anuvad Creations, *Love Li* has now entered the overseas market, with its first stop in Dubai this week. The lead cast is currently in Dubai for the premiere show. Meanwhile, the team is also in discussions to release the film in the USA and other parts of the country.

Love Li marks Stefy Patel's debut, as the female lead opposite Vasishta Simha. The film also stars Dattanna, Malavika, Sadhu Kokila, Achyuth Kumar, and Vanshika. The film has cinematography by Ashwin Kennedy and music composed by Anoop Seelin.

A still from the film

Samarjit Lankesh, whose debut film *Gowri* directed by his father, Indrajit Lankesh has gained significant attention with its catchy songs, has been praised for his impressive dancing skills

'YOUTH CONNECT WITH MUSIC, AND DANCE ENHANCES IT'

A SHARADHAA

THE upcoming musical film *Gowri*, which marks the debut of Samarjit Lankesh, directed by his father Indrajit Lankesh, has gained significant attention with its catchy songs. The first single, 'Time Barutte', was followed by 'Dhool Ebsava' featuring Samarjit and Sanjana Anand shaking a leg. Both have become hits on YouTube, sparking trends and inspiring countless social media reels. The songs have also made a substantial impact, drawing all eyes to Samarjit, who has been praised for his impressive dancing skills.

Speaking to *CE*, Samarjit explains why music is a crucial aspect of the film. "Growing up, I watched my father's work and understood the importance of music in film. As a kid, I loved dancing on stage and felt energetic listening to songs. I would mimic moves and choreograph my own routine. When I decided to become an actor, I realised it wasn't just about acting. It's about entertainment involving action sequences, dance portions, songs, and powerful dialogues. I wanted to excel in all areas, so I took dance training very seriously, just as I trained for stunts. I'm thankful it has paid off, and I consider it an achievement that the two songs have been trending. There's pressure on my father as he is launching me, but the response has been nothing but encouraging."

Samarjit is also a singer, a talent he developed as a child. "I put my energy into activities like singing and cricket. As an actor, the audience expects more from you," he says, citing Kannada stars like Puneeth Rajkumar, Sudeep, and Upendra as his inspirations.

For a debutant, promoting a film in today's world takes a lot of skill. "I can't compare the films from my father's time, who achieved his own success and praise. Today, when I visit colleges and meet people, the experience is different. Trends change with each generation, and it all depends on the product, not whether you come from a star background or not."

Discussing the impact of social media, Samarjit acknowledges its power. "There are a few negatives, but this platform allows us to showcase our product and reach a wide audience. Our songs have been a hit on social media because of the reels created by netizens. It depends on what you want to take away from social media," he says, signing off with a promise of more tracks to come. "Youth connects with music, and dance enhances it. Even the background score and tunes evoke emotions and elevate cinema."

The film also marks the debut of Saniya Iyer on the big screen and features Sweezal Chandu Gowda among others. *Gowri* has more than a couple of music directors, including Jassie Gift and Chandan Shetty, while AJ Shetty has handled cinematography.

I can't compare the films from my father's time, who achieved his own success and praise. Today, when I visit colleges and meet people, the experience is different. Trends change with each generation, and it all depends on the product, not whether you come from a star background or not – Samarjit Lankesh, actor

A still from the film

Olivia to play Angela Burr in *The Night Manager season two*

CE FEATURES

THE Oscar-winning actor will reprise her role as intelligence officer Angela Burr, for which she received a Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actress.

Hiddleston is returning to play Jonathan Pine, the handsome ex-soldier and a hotel night manager who was recruited to bring down the empire of arms dealer Richard Roper in season one, which was released in 2016 to universal praise.

Apart from Colman and Hiddleston, the cast also includes Alistair Petrie as Alexander "Sandy" Langbourne, Douglas Hodge as Rex Mayhew, Michael Nardone as Frisky and Noah Jupe as Danny Roper. Other previously announced cast members include Diego Calva, Camila Morrone, Indira Varma and Hayley Squires.

The Night Manager is a British series based on an eponymous 1993 novel by John le Carre. Season one, which was released in 2016, follows a former soldier and currently a luxury hotel manager Jonathan Pine (Hiddleston) who gets recruited by the UK's Foreign Office task force to infiltrate the circle of arms dealer Richard Roper as a part of the illegal arms trade probe.

Vijay Kumar's sophomore directorial *Bheema* sets release date

The film produced by Jagadeesh Gowda and Krishna Sarthak is all set to hit theatres on August 9

CE FEATURES

VIJAY Kumar's upcoming directorial, *Bheema*, initially slated for an Independence Day release, has now officially announced August 9 as the release date. marks Vijay's sophomore directorial project following his debut, Salaga. The film will continue his exploration of the underworld themes. In addition to directing, Vijay has also taken on the roles of writer and lead actor.

The makers created a buzz by releasing the film's first song, 'Bad Boys', followed by two additional tracks. Now, the team has planned a series of promotional activities leading up to its release. *Bheema* also marks the debut of Ashwini, a theatre artist turned actor, alongside Black Dragon Manju and Gili Gili Chandru among others as part of the ensemble cast.

Produced by Krishna Sarthak and Jagadeesh Gowda under the banners of Krishna Creations and Jagadeesh Films, *Bheema* features music by Charan Raj, who previously worked on Salaga. Shiva Sena handles the cinematography.

Apart from *Bheema*, Vijay Kumar is currently collaborating with director Jadessha K Hampi on *VK 21*, which is currently in production.

Vijay Kumar

Jigar locks release date

CE FEATURES

JIGAR, helmed by first-time director Suri Kunder, has locked a release date. the film, which marks Praveen Tej's first full-fledged commercial entertainer is all set to hit big screens on July 5. The makers announced the release date along with the trailer.

The film, which has already piqued interest through its trailer, shows that the director has transformed Praveen Tej from a romantic hero to an action hero. His character, Jeeva, is a young man who gets involved in a fish tendership and subsequently steps into the underworld, facing conflicts among three or four factions. The film's main storyline includes love, action, and comedy elements.

Director Suri Kunder, who has been in the film industry for about fifteen years, is making his first feature film with *Jigar*. He explains that *Jigar* means someone with courage and who fears nothing. The film was shot in locations like Malpe, Udupi, and Kundapur.

Produced by Pooja Vasanthkumar under the UK Production banner, *Jigar* features Vijayshree Kalburgi as the female lead, along with Vinaya Prasad, Yash Shetty, Bala Rajwadi, and others in supporting roles. The film has music composed by Ritvik Muralidhar, cinematography by Shivaseena, and editing by Inaanesh B Matad.

Praveen Tej